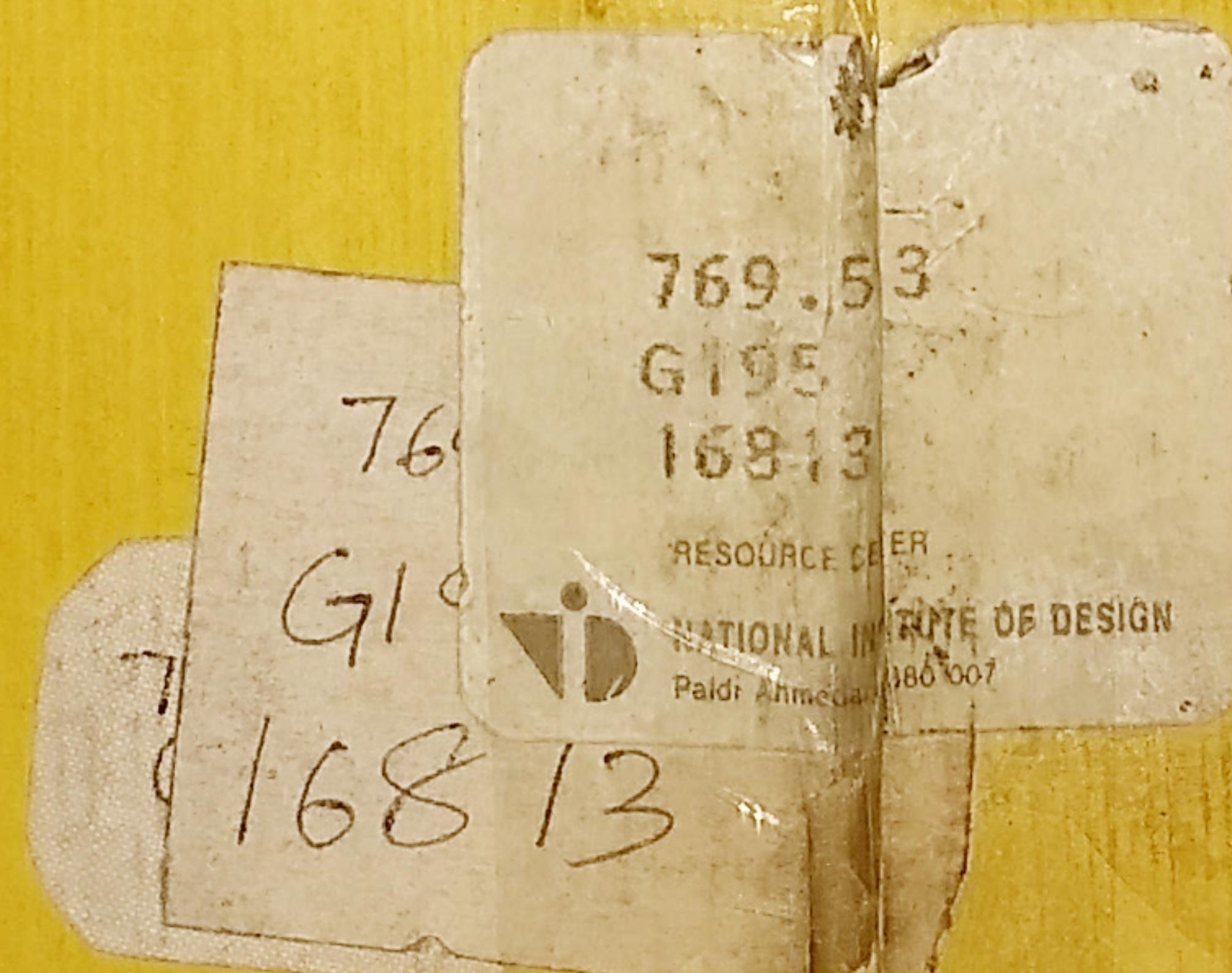
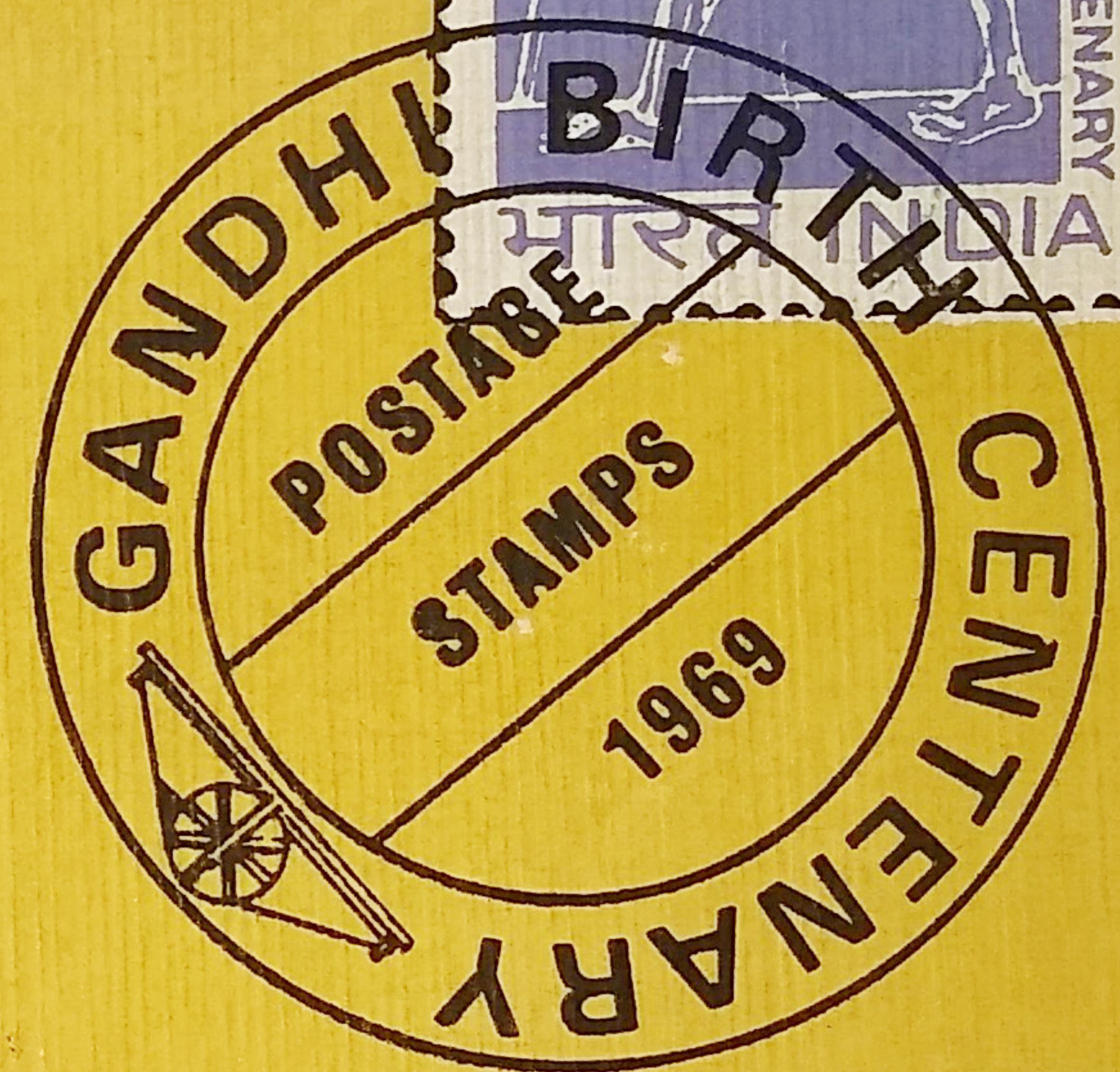


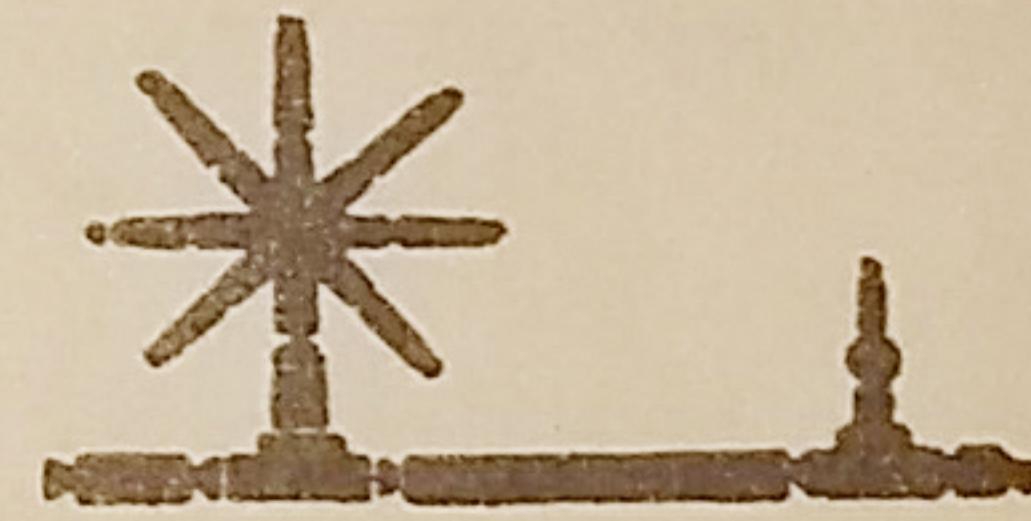
He stopped at the threshold of the huts of the thousands of dispossessed, dressed like one of their own. He spoke to them in their own language. Here was living truth at last, and not only quotations from books. For this reason the Mahatma, the name given to him by the people of India, is his real name. Who else has felt like him that all Indians are his own flesh and blood? When love came to the door of India that door was opened wide. At Gandhi's call India blossomed forth to new greatness, just as once before, in earlier times, when Buddha proclaimed the truth of fellow feeling and compassion among all living creatures.

—Rabindranath Tagore



MANI BHAVAN  
GANDHI SANGRAHALAYA  
BOMBAY 7 INDIA

**GANDHI BIRTH CENTENARY  
POSTAGE STAMPS  
1969**



**Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya  
Bombay-7, India**

## Introduction

Many and diverse were the ways in which the Gandhi Birth Centenary was celebrated by governments and peoples all over the world, from October 2, 1969 to February 22, 1970.

National and international seminars and symposia were organised and exhibitions and meetings arranged. Books were published, films produced and constructive activities initiated.

The governments of many countries both from the Eastern and the Western hemispheres joined the Government of India in paying homage to the great soul — the Mahatma — by issuing Gandhi postage stamps of different denominations.

Many eminent personalities have been honoured by their portrayals on postage stamps not only in their own countries but by other nations. One striking feature about Gandhi Birth Centenary celebrations however, is that fortyone different countries irrespective of their political and economic ideologies and complexions issued seventy-four postage stamps in his honour over and above miniature-sheets, special over-prints, attractive first-day covers, souvenir cards and special post marks.

The following countries issued Gandhi Birth Centenary postage stamps :—

Bhutan, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Congo, Cyprus, Dominica, Gabon, Great Britain, Grenada, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Iran, Khor Fakkan, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Malta, Niger, Poland, Senegal, Sharjah, Suriname,

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Knowledge Management Centre

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Somalia, Southern Yemen, Kingdom of Yemen, Syria, Tchad, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Upper Volta, UAR, USSR, Uruguay, USA and West Germany.

Born on October 2, 1869 in this world of utmost violence, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi the man of peace and goodwill stood out as a contrast and a challenge. He lived for peace and harmony and laid down his life for the vindication of these ideals. He was like a powerful current of fresh air—like a beam of light that pierced the encircling darkness by teaching mankind to shed fear and hatred and to work for unity, equality and brotherhood. His activities were many and varied. Freedom-struggles fought under his inspiring leadership were spread over South Africa and India. He took an integrated view of life. Hence there was hardly any aspect of life—social, religious, political or economic which was left untouched by him. The epic life of Gandhi came to an end on January 30, 1948. He met his death facing the forces of darkness and hatred with compassion and love. He had said, "If I am to die by the bullet of a mad man, I must do so smiling". He bowed to his assassin and died with the name of God on his lips. He was the Victorious one in death as in life.

The postage stamps issued by different countries throw light on different phases of his great life and work. Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya thought it fit to publish these stamps in view of their educational value. "Generations to come it may be", observed Albert Einstein, "will scarcely believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth". It is hoped

that this album will help the younger generation, which did not see the Mahatma in flesh and blood, in understanding him and his message of love and brotherhood. It should certainly be of absorbing interest to the philatelists all over the world.

Our thanks are due to Shri Shantikumar Morarjee and the Scindia Workshop Limited, Bombay, but for whose co-operation, it would not have been possible to bring out this album, and to the Navjivan Publishing House for their having given us the permission to reproduce abstracts from Gandhiji's speeches and writings.

January 30, 1972.

## *Truth*

For me Truth is the sovereign principle, which includes numerous other principles. This truth is not only truthfulness in word, but truthfulness in thought also, and not only the relative truth of our conception but the Absolute Truth, the Eternal Principle, that is God.

The seeker after Truth should be humbler than the dust. Only then, and not till then, will he have a glimpse of Truth.

Truth is like a vast tree, which yields more and more fruit the more you nurture it. The deeper the search in the mine of truth the richer the discovery of the gems buried there, in the shape of openings for an ever greater variety of service.

In the march towards Truth, anger, selfishness, hatred, etc. naturally give way, for otherwise Truth would be impossible to attain. A successful search for Truth means complete deliverance from the dual throng such as of love and hate, happiness and misery.

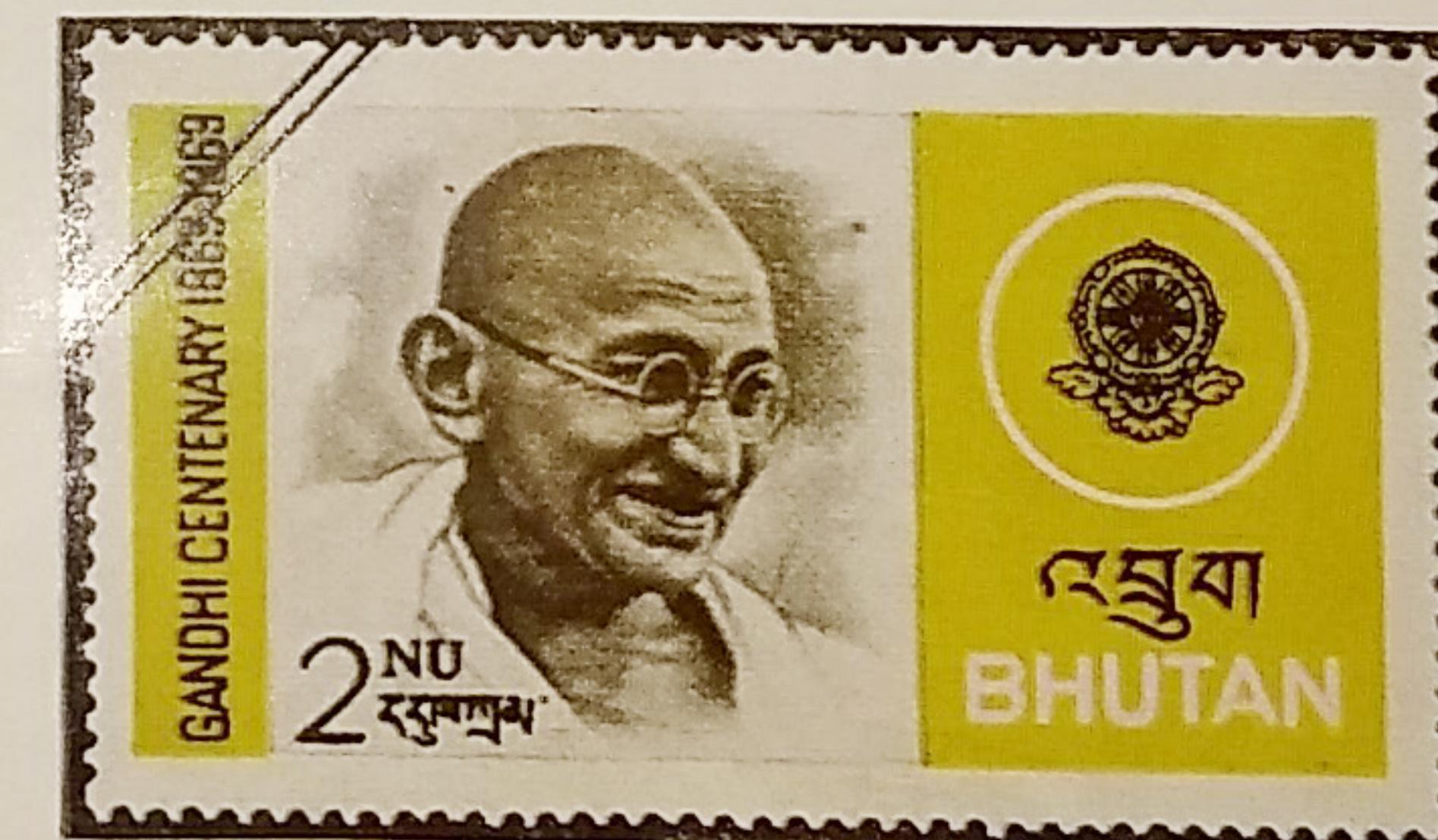
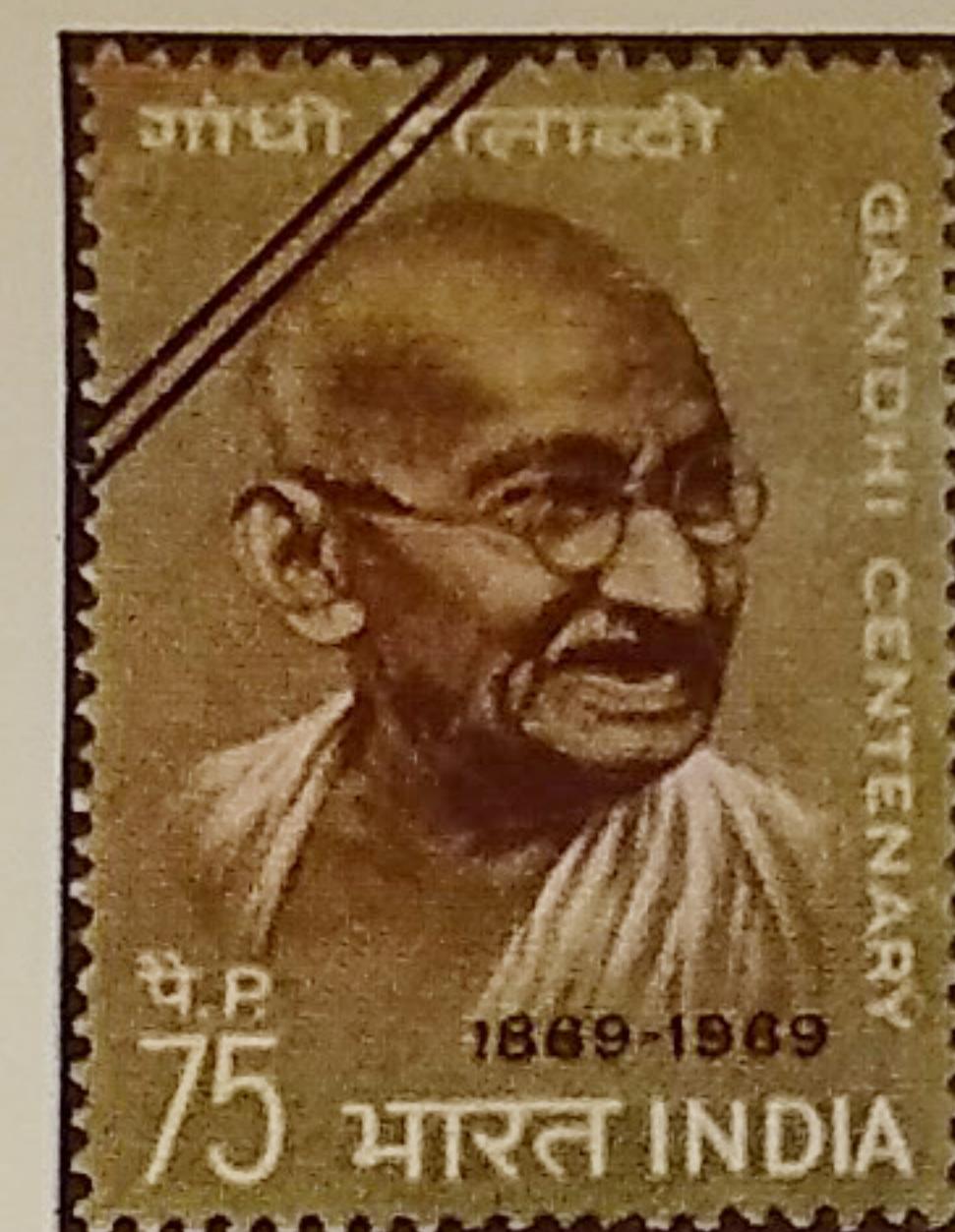
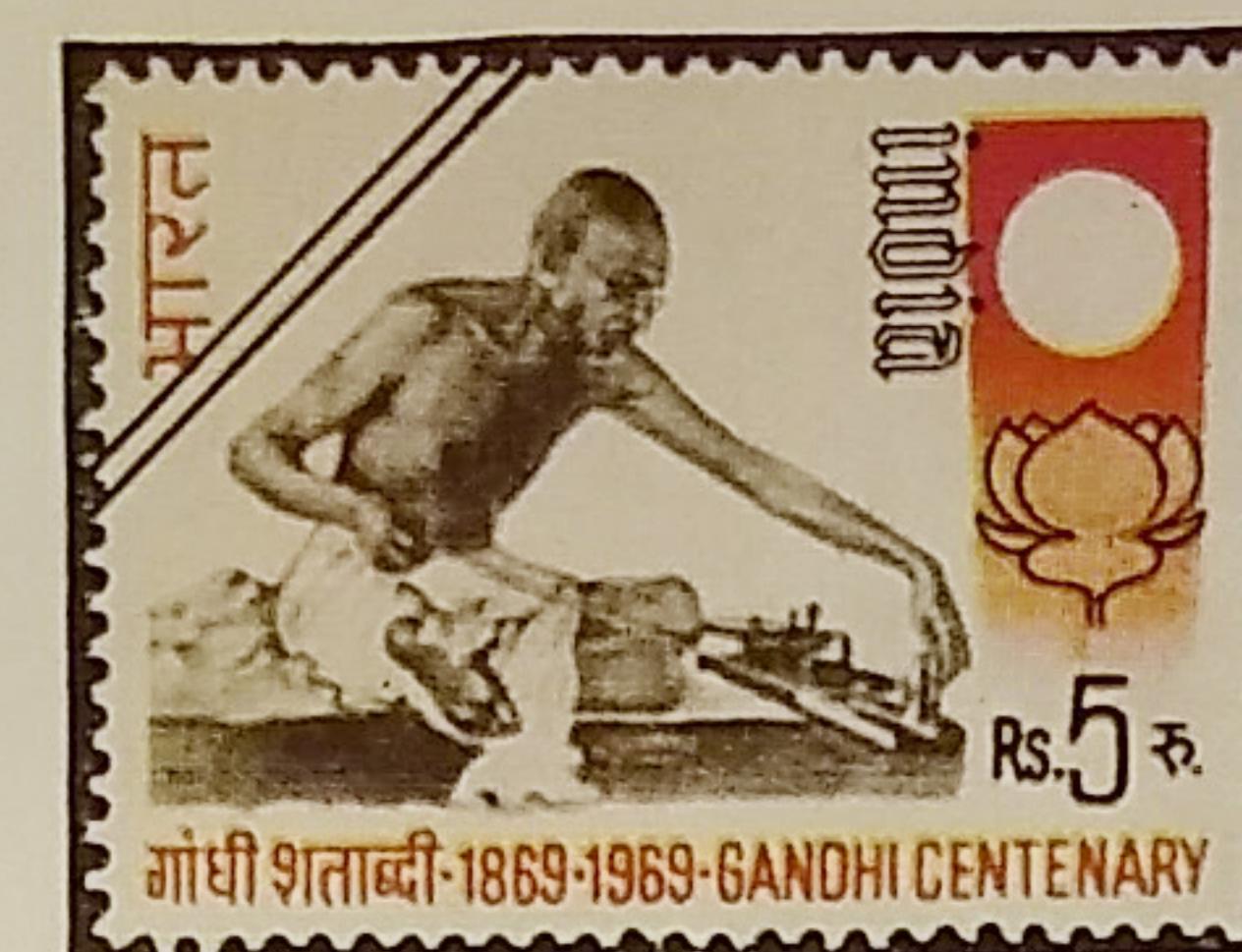
—M. K. Gandhi

## INDIA

To commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, four Gandhi stamps were issued in the denominations of 20 paise, 75 paise, Re. 1 and Rs. 5. The colours of the stamps are: 20p. Brown, 75p. Orange and Raw Sienna: Re. 1, Bronze Blue: Rs. 5, Orange and Brown.

The 20 paise stamp bears profiles of Gandhiji and Kasturba. This Brown colour stamp is 3.34x2.88 cms. in size, perforation 14x13½. The 75 paise stamp, in orange and raw sienna, is 3.91x2.90 cms. in size and shows the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in a happy mood.

The design of Re. 1/- stamp, in bronze blue, is based on a wood cut by Nandalal Bose showing Mahatma Gandhi on the Dandi March. The size of the stamp is 4.06x2.28 cms., perforation 14½x14. The high valued Rs. 5/- stamp shows Mahatma Gandhi at the spinning wheel in brilliant orange and brown, of size 3.91x2.90 cms. The design also shows the Sun and the Lotus as symbols of "Truth" and "Non-Violence".



## BHUTAN

The Royal Government of Bhutan issued on the 2nd October, 1969 two stamps in the denominations of 2NU. and 20CH. to commemorate Gandhiji's Birth Centenary.

## Non-Violence

To communicate to the British Government  
the views of the People of India regarding  
the Government of India Act.

Non-violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute. The spirit lies dormant in the brute and he knows no law but that of physical might. The dignity of man requires obedience to a higher law—to the strength of the spirit.

Non-violence is a power which can be wielded equally by all—children, young men and women or grown-up people, provided they have a living faith in the God of Love and have therefore equal love for all mankind. When non-violence is accepted as the law of life, it must pervade the whole being and not be applied to isolated acts.

The very first step in non-violence is that we cultivate in our daily life, as between ourselves, truthfulness, humility, tolerance, loving kindness.

Non-violence is an unchangeable creed. It has to be pursued in face of violence raging around you.

My non-violence does not admit of running away from danger and leaving dear ones unprotected between violence and cowardly flight. I can only prefer violence to cowardice.

The path of true non-violence requires much more courage than violence.

—M. K. Gandhi

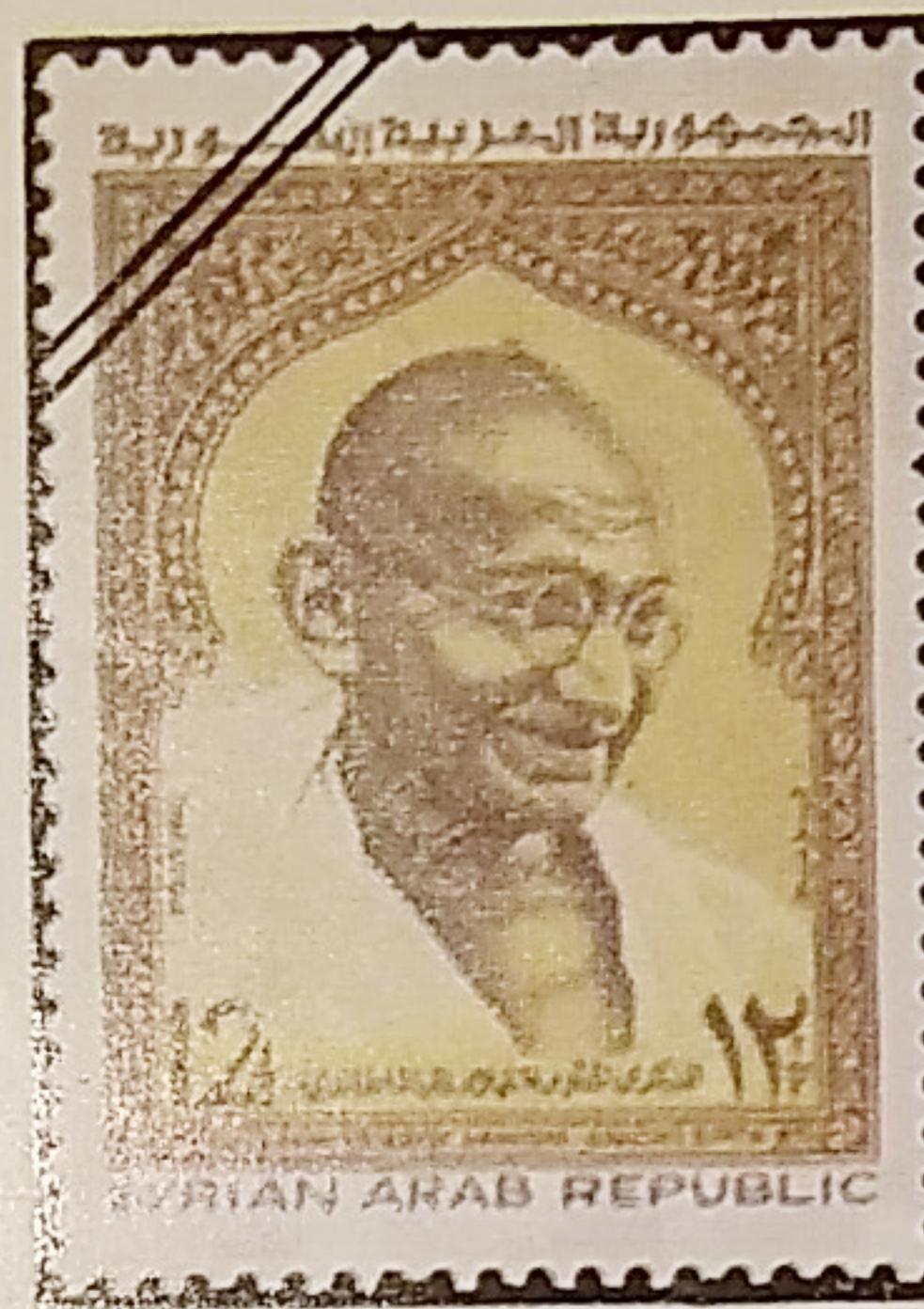
### SOUTHERN YEMEN

To commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the People's Republic of Southern Yemen (formerly Aden) released a 35 Fils stamp showing the picture of Gandhiji in walking posture.



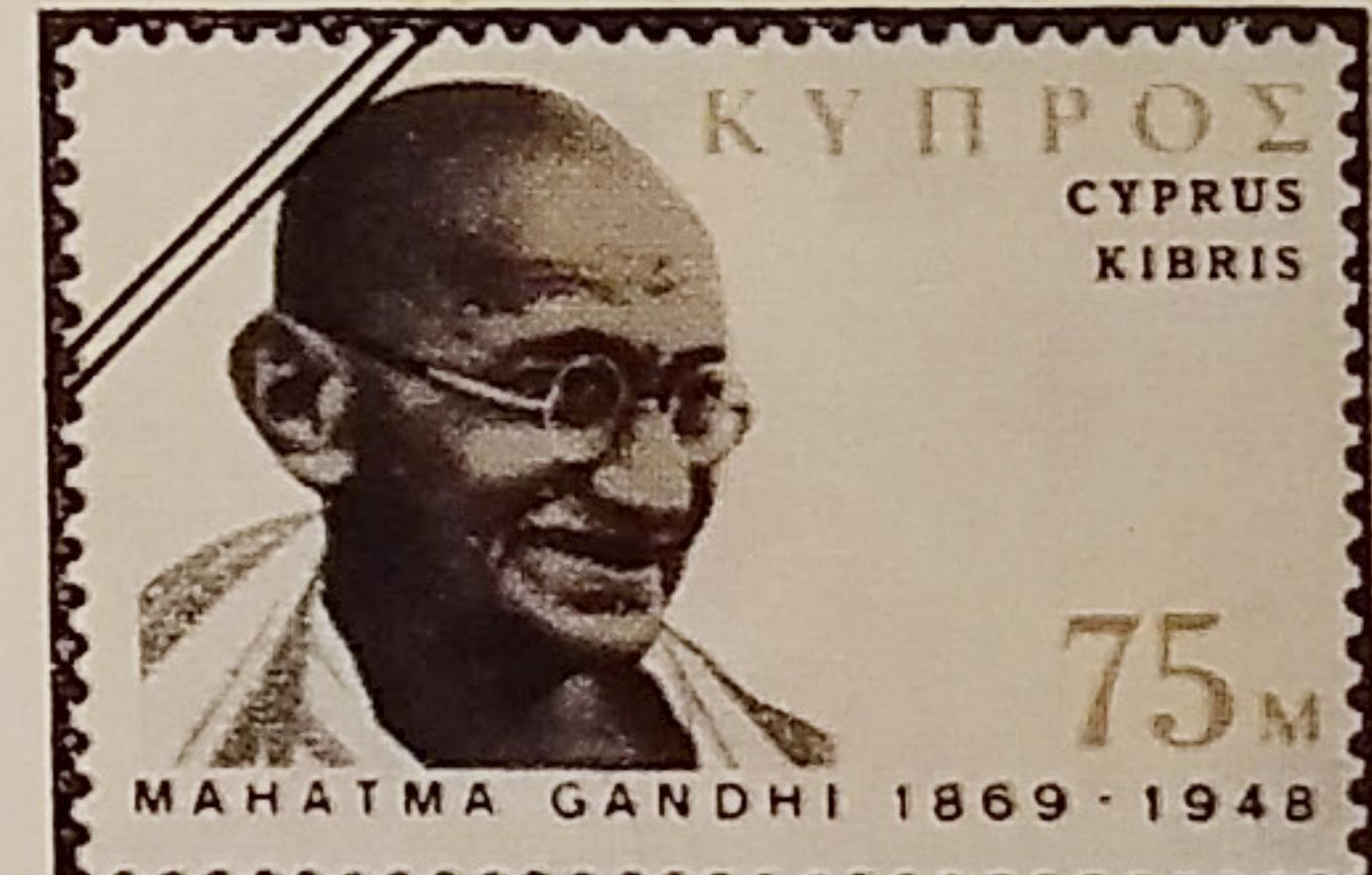
### SYRIA

The Government of Syrian Arab Republic released two stamps of the value of 12.1/2 and 27.1/2 piastres on 2nd October, 1969 to mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. The inscription, in Arabic and English, on the stamps reads "100th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Birth".



### CYPRUS

To mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of Cyprus issued a set of two stamps of the value of 25M. and 75M., on India's Republic Day, January 26, 1970.



### IRAN

The Government of Iran issued a stamp in the value of 14 Rials to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. Printed in bi-colour, brown portrait and black border, the stamp bears the inscriptions in Persian and English.



### *Means and Ends*

Means and ends are convertible terms in my philosophy of life.

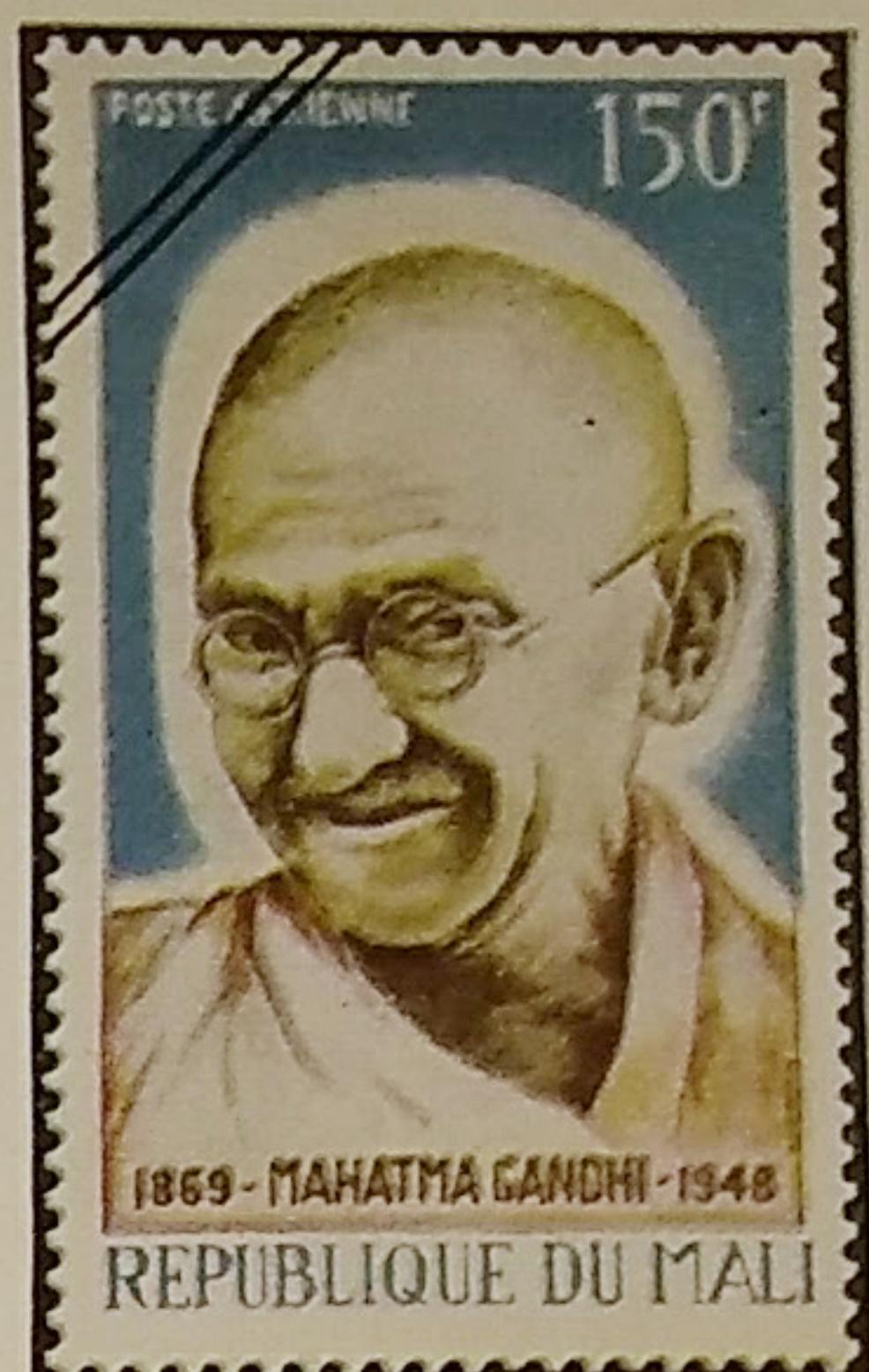
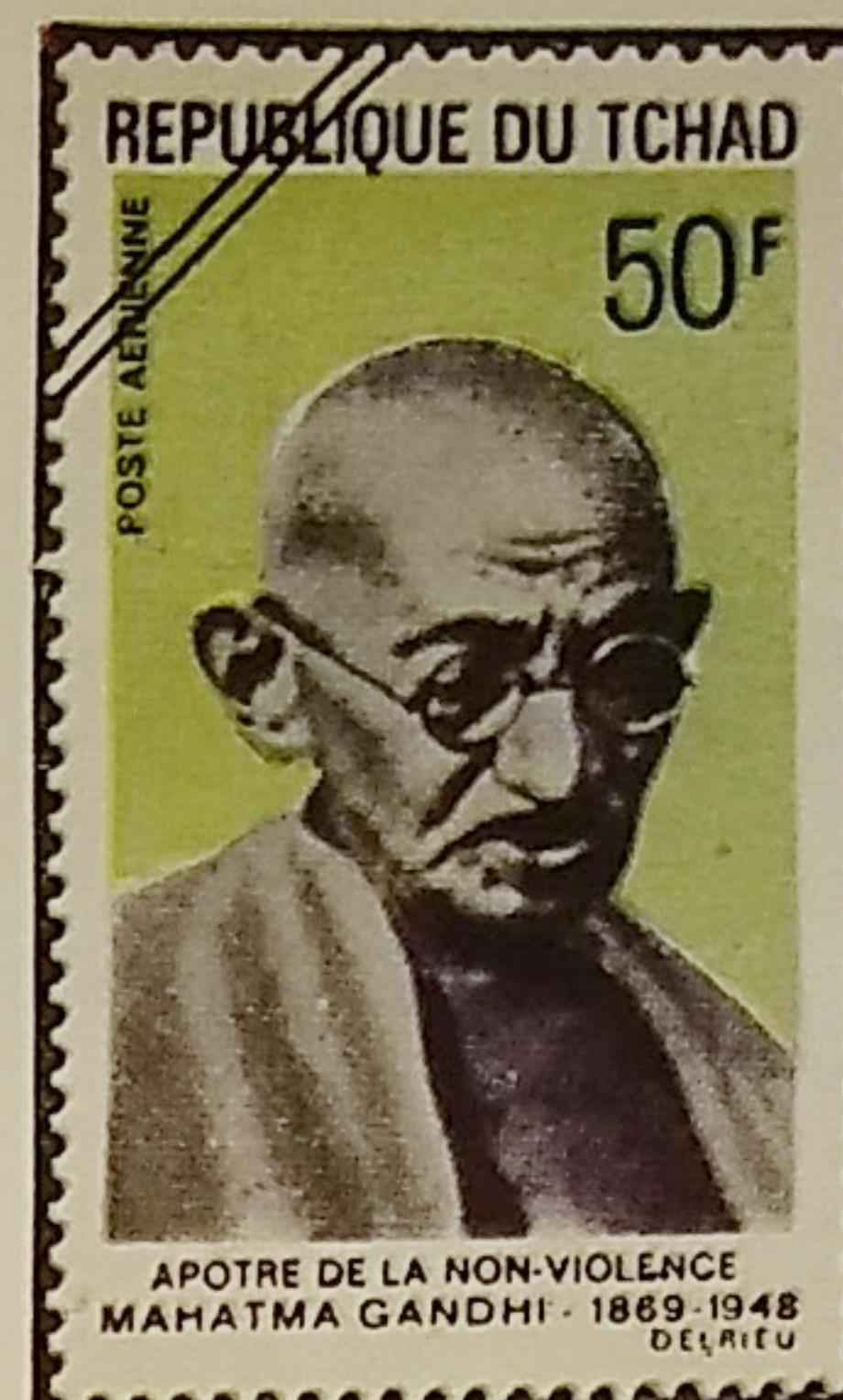
The means may be likened to a seed, the end to a tree; and there is just the same inviolable connection between the means and the end, as there is between the seed and the tree.

They say 'means are after all means'. I would say "means are after all everything". As the means so the end. There is no wall of separation between means and end. Indeed the Creator has given us control over means, none over the end. Realization of the goal is in exact proportion to that of the means. This is a proposition that admits of no exception.

—M. K. Gandhi

### TCHAD

The Government of Tchad released on 20th May, 1969, a 50F. stamp to mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi as a part in the series of Apostle of Peace and Non-Violence. Bearing a profile of Gandhiji, this stamp is colourful.

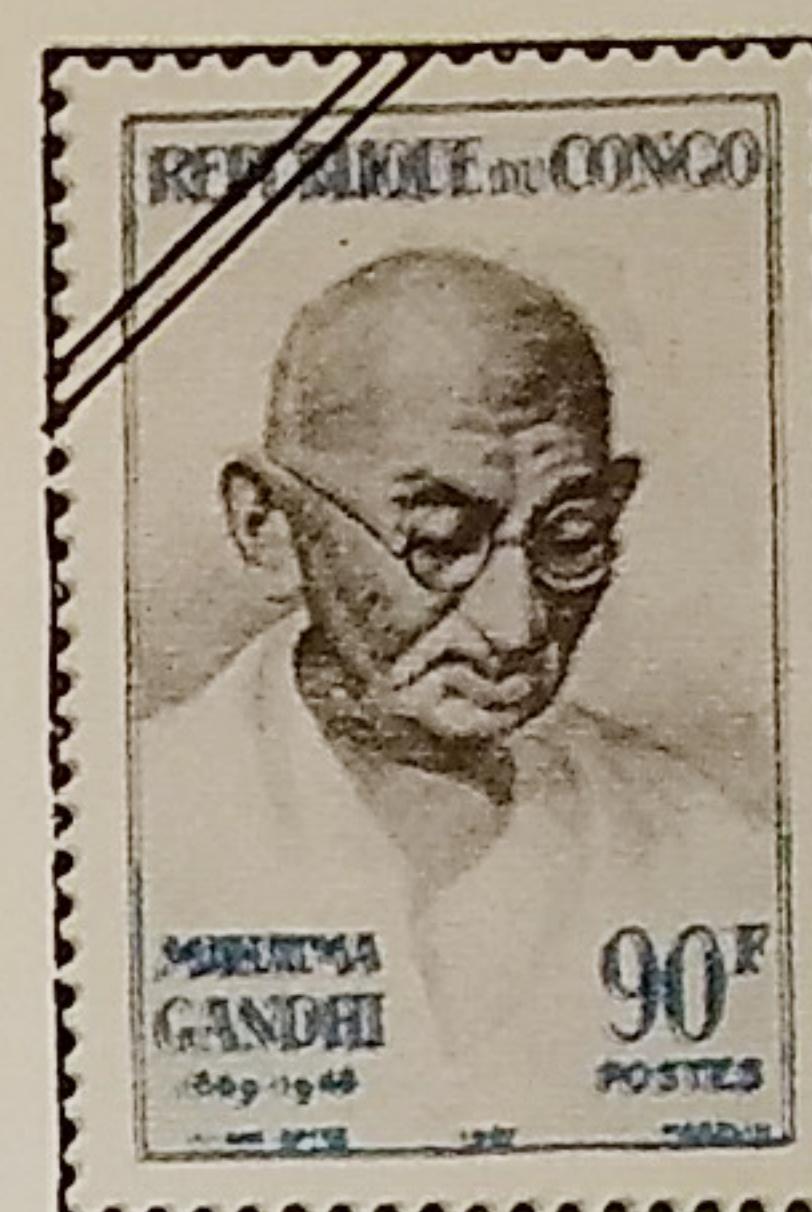
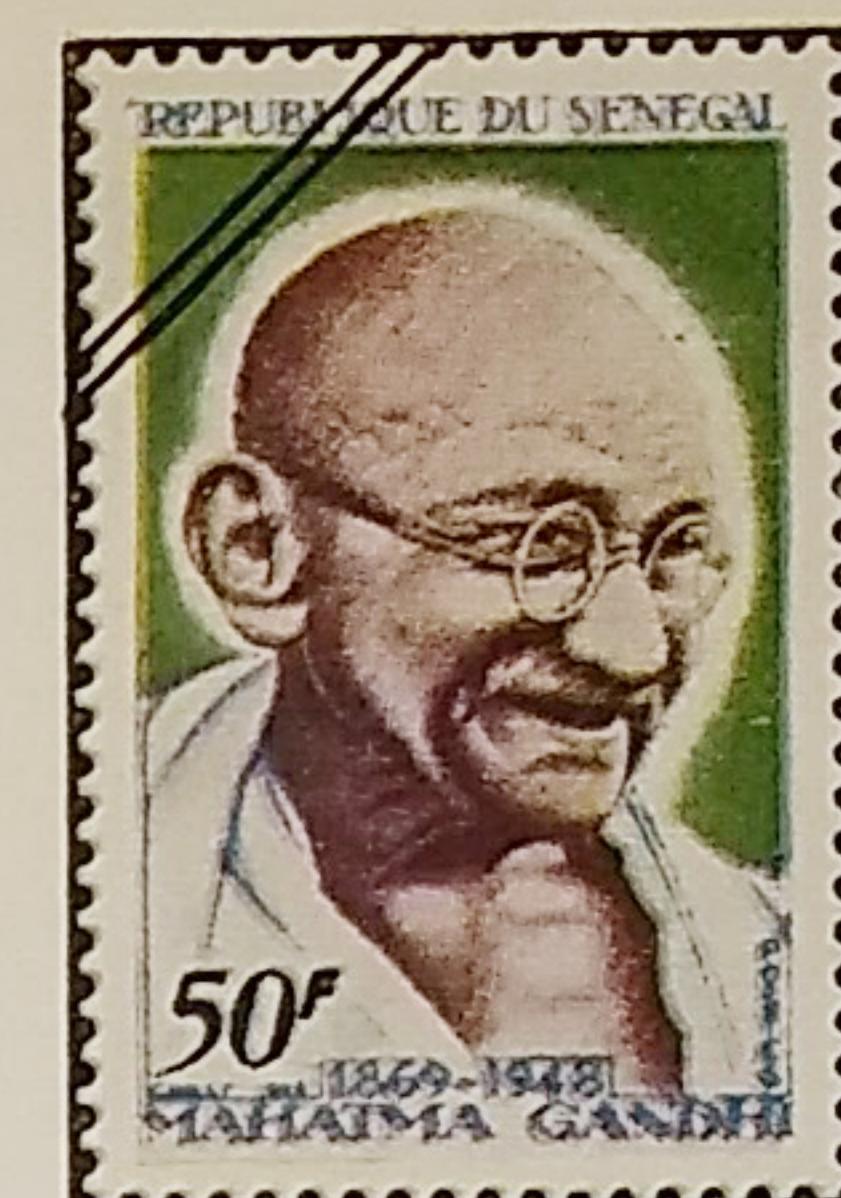


### MALI

The Government of the Republic of Mali commemorated the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi by issuing a stamp in the value of 150F. on 2nd October, 1969.

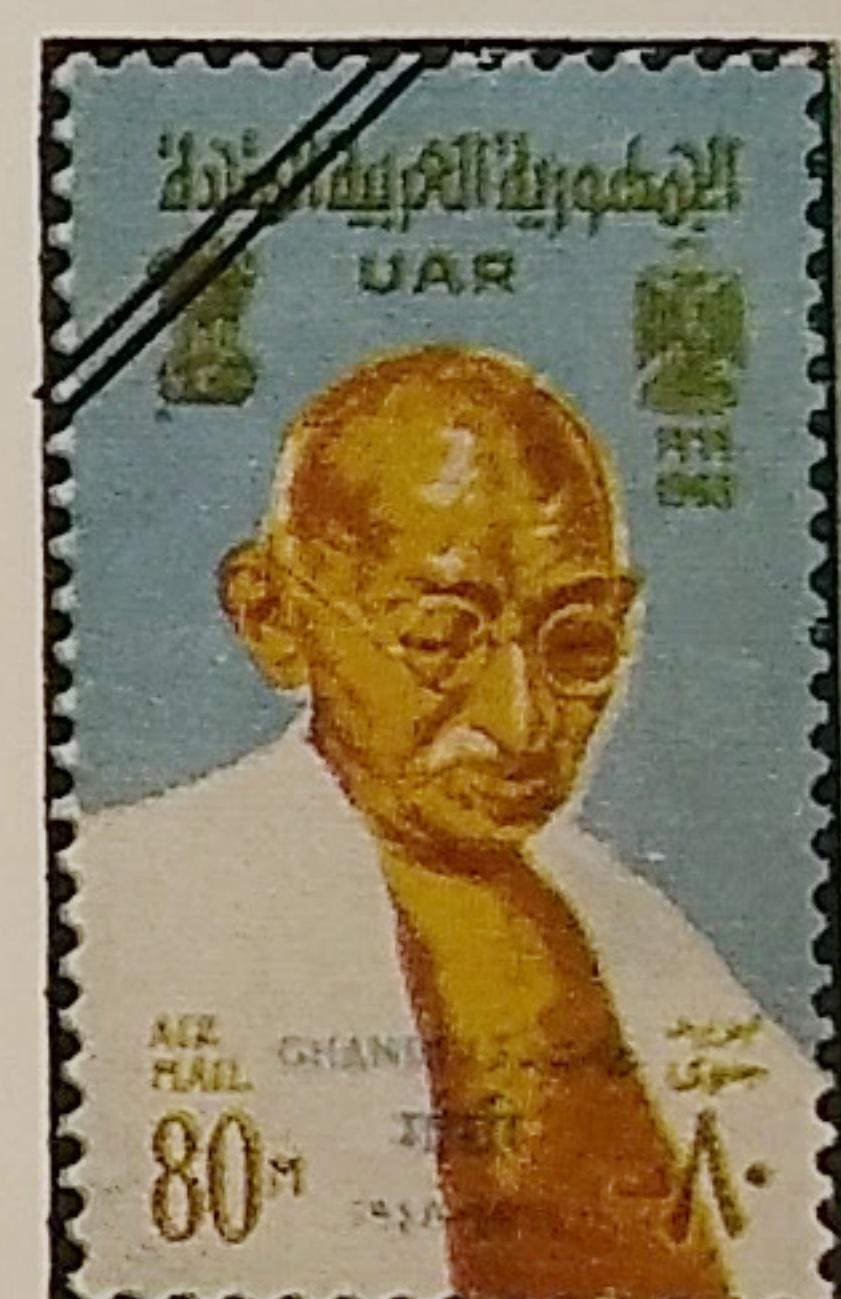
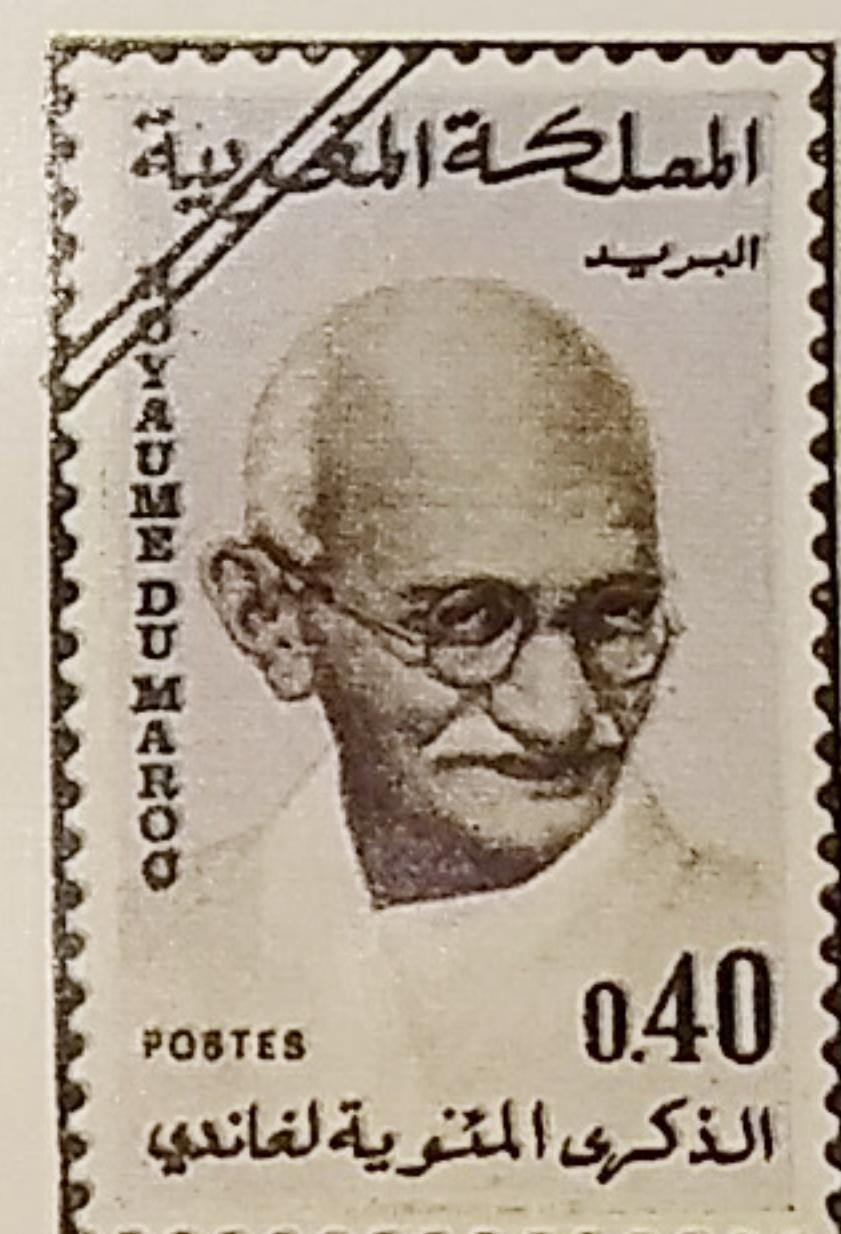
### SENEGAL

In homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 100th Birth Anniversary, Senegal issued a stamp of the value of 50F. on 2nd October, 1969. The stamp bears a smiling profile of Mahatma Gandhi and is colourful.



### CONGO

To mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of the Republic of Congo issued a stamp in the denomination of 90F. on 21st April, 1967. The stamps issued are both perforated and imperforated.

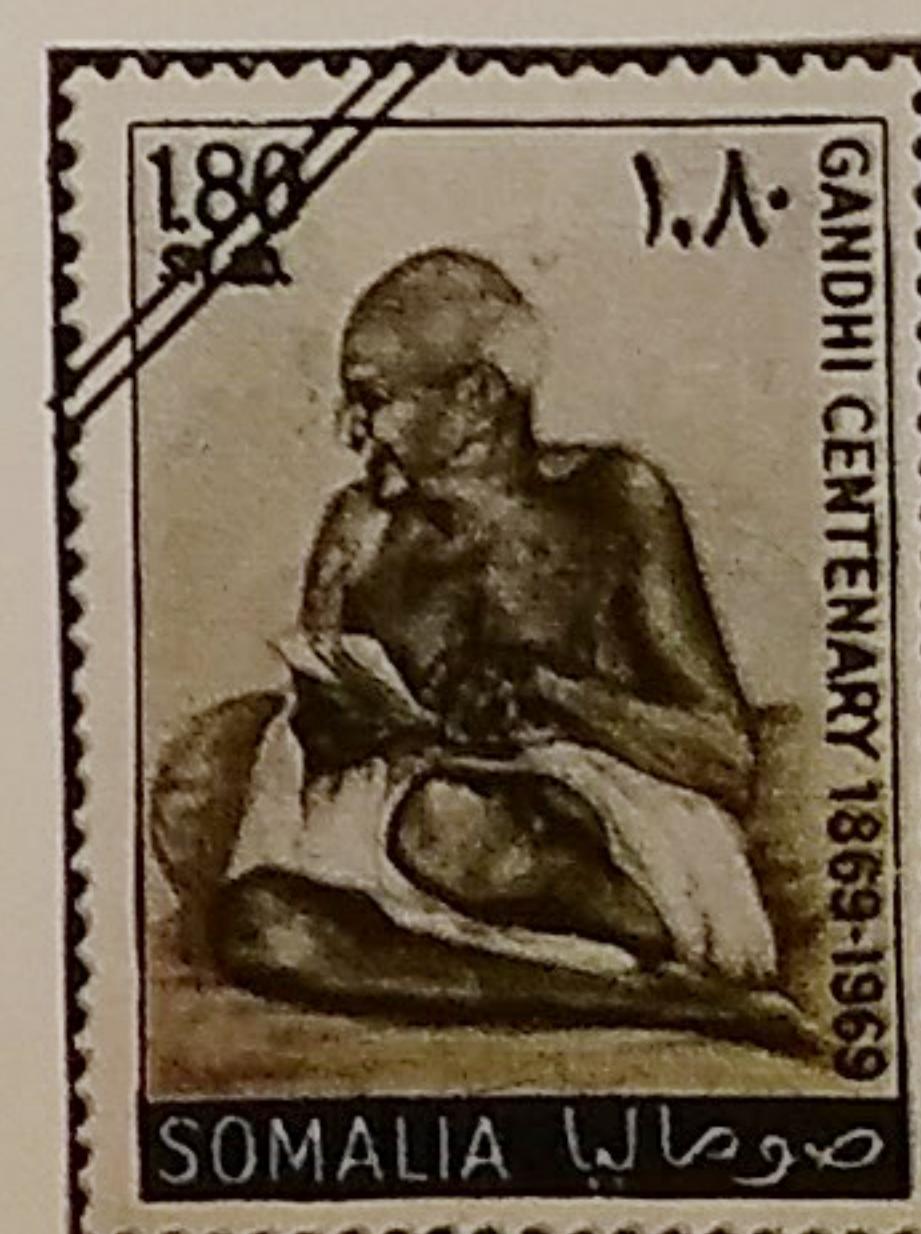
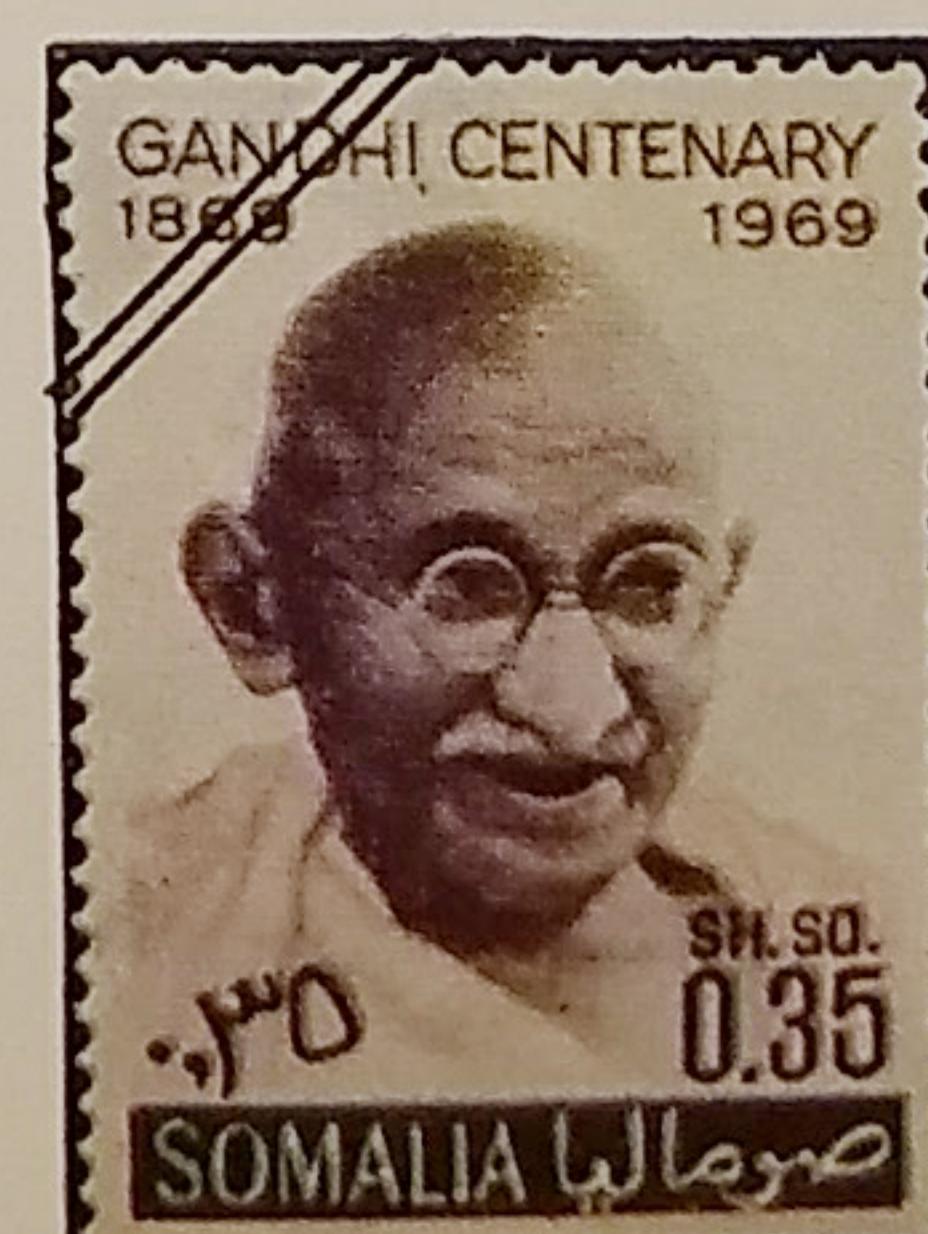


### MOROCCO

The Government of Morocco issued a stamp of 0.40 value on 22nd September, 1969, to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. The stamp bears inscription in Arabic, "Mahatma Gandhi".

### U. A. R.

On the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi the Government of the United Arab Republic (Egypt) issued a commemorative stamp of the value of 80 mils on 10th September, 1969. Printed in four colours (yellow-brown, orange-yellow, olive-brown and light blue) on multiple Eagle watermarked paper, the stamp is an AIR MAIL item. It has the portrait of Gandhiji with national emblems of India and the U.A.R. and the inscription, "Gandhi" in Hindi, Arabic and English.



### SOMALIA

To mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of Somalia issued three stamps in the values of 0.35, 1.50 and 1.80 Somalia Shillings, on 2nd October, 1969. The stamps bear different profiles of Gandhiji. The stamp of the value of 1.50 also bears a picture showing hands releasing a white pigeon (symbol of peace) on the surface of Globe.

*The Message of the East*

Let India be and remain the hope of all the exploited races of the earth, whether in Asia, Africa or in any part of the world.

What I want you to understand is the message of Asia. It is not to be learnt through the western spectacles or by imitating the atom bomb. If you want to give a message to the West, it must be the message of love and the message of truth... In this age of democracy, in this age of awakening of the poorest of the poor, you can redeliver this message with the greatest emphasis.

The West today is pining for wisdom. It is despairing of a multiplication of the atom bombs, because atom bombs mean utter destruction not merely of the West but of the whole world... It is up to you to tell the world of its wickedness and sin. That is the heritage your teachers and my teachers have taught Asia.

—M. K. Gandhi

### CAMEROON

On 5th December, 1968, the Federal Republic of Cameroon issued two stamps in the denominations of 30F. and 70F. with intervening se-tenant stamp-size labels bearing commemorative inscriptions, "Mahatma Gandhi — 1869 — 1969", Apostle of Non-Violence.

### NIGER

The Government of the Republic of Niger issued a stamp in the value of 100F. on 4th October, 1968 to mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. The stamp bears an inscription, "Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1969" in English. This stamp was issued in the series of Apostle of Peace.

### MAURITANIA

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania honoured Gandhiji on his Birth Centenary by issuing a commemorative stamp valued 50F. on 4th November, 1968.

### UPPER VOLTA

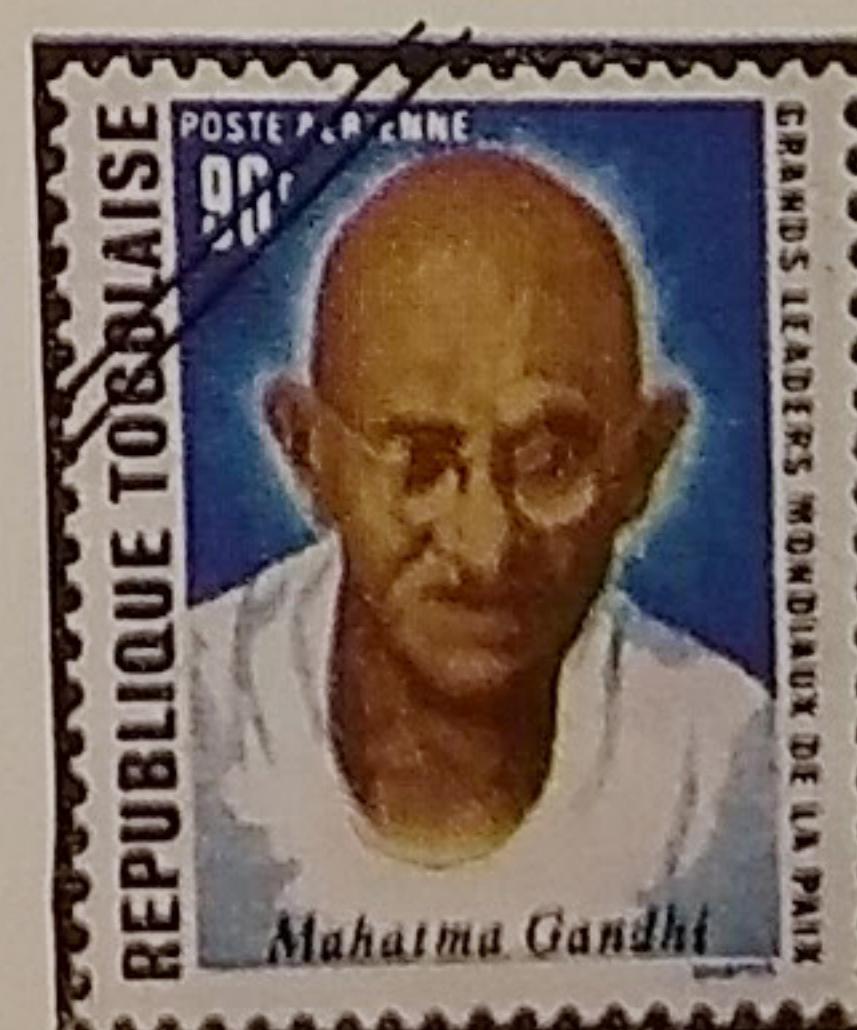
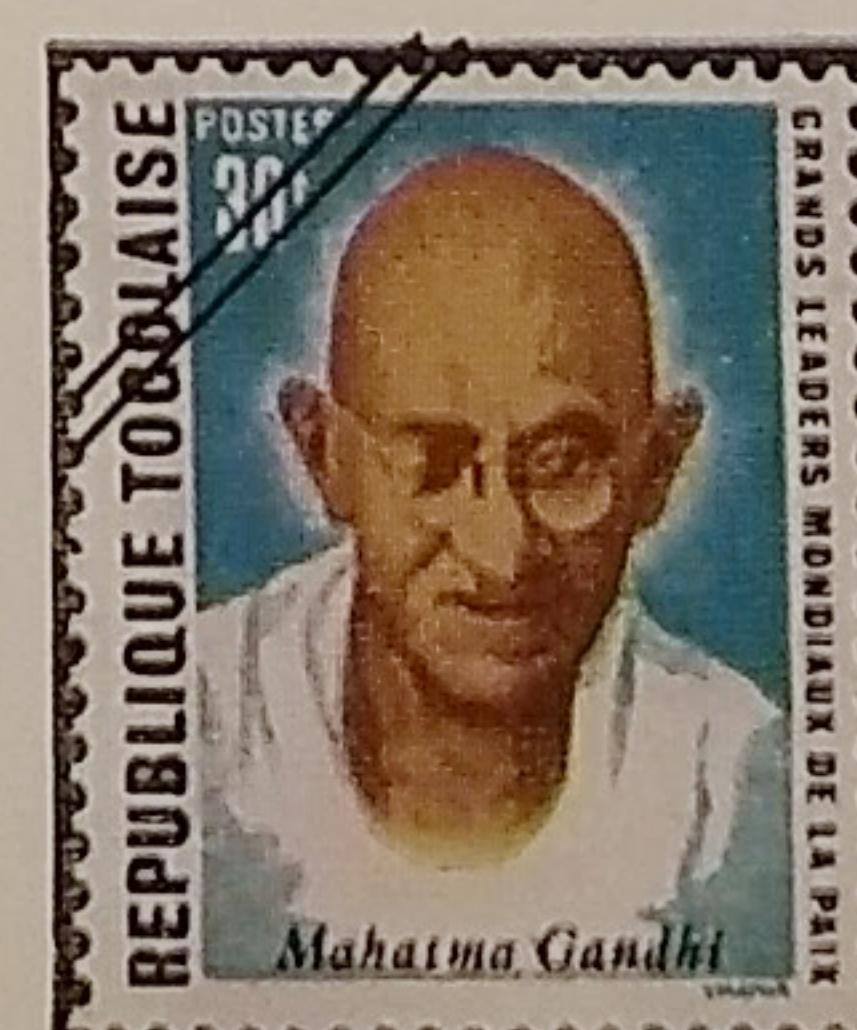
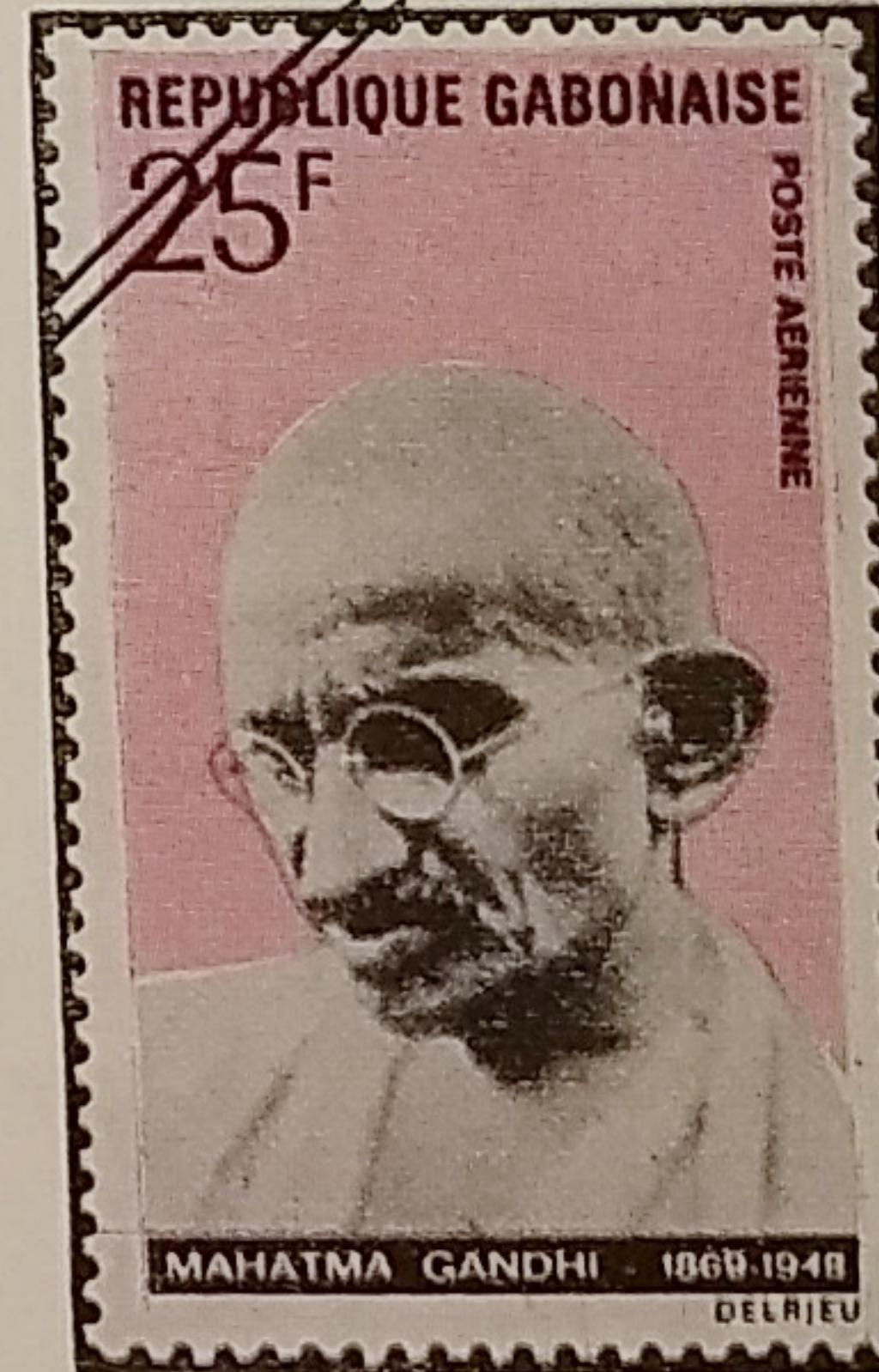
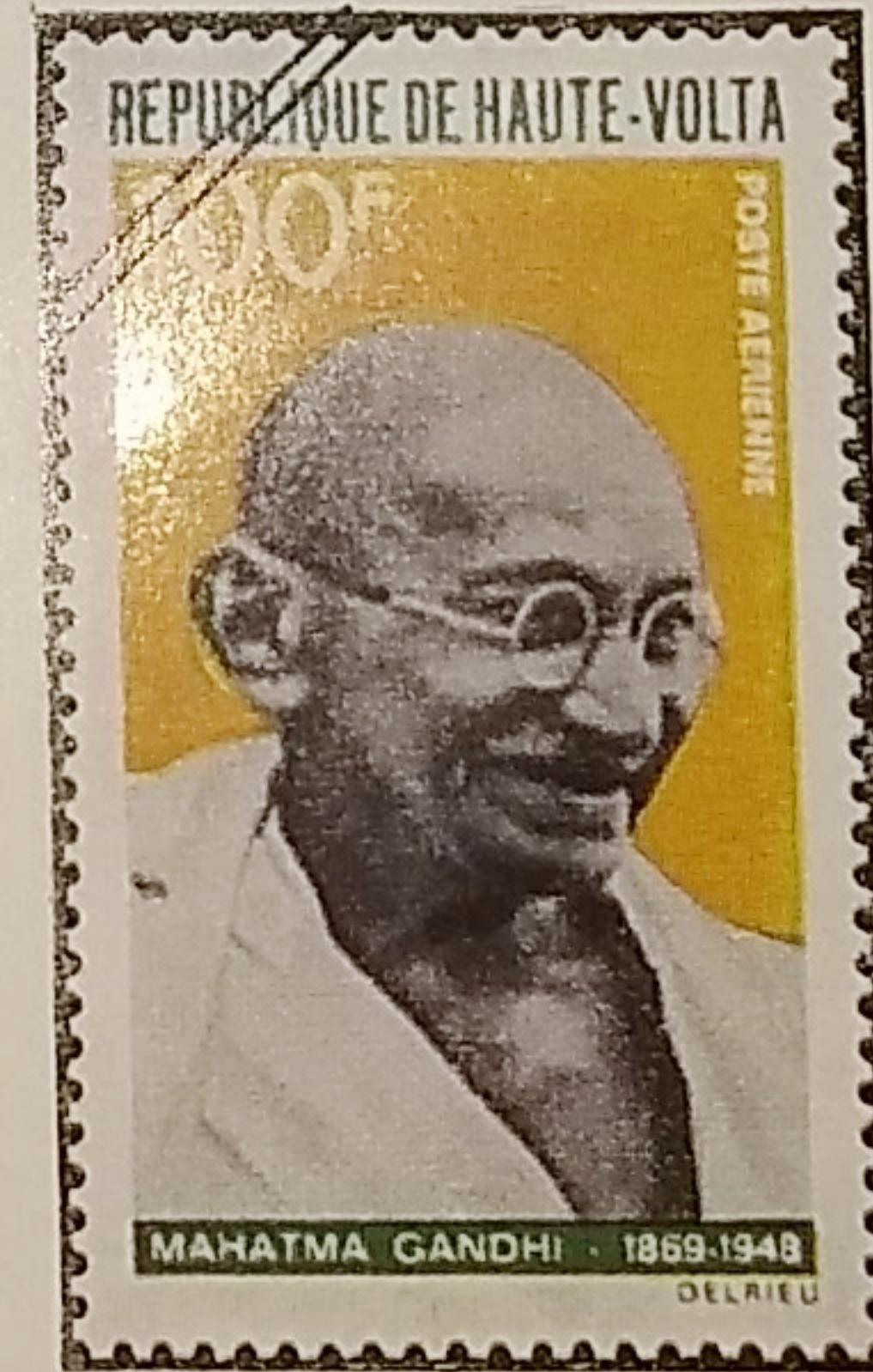
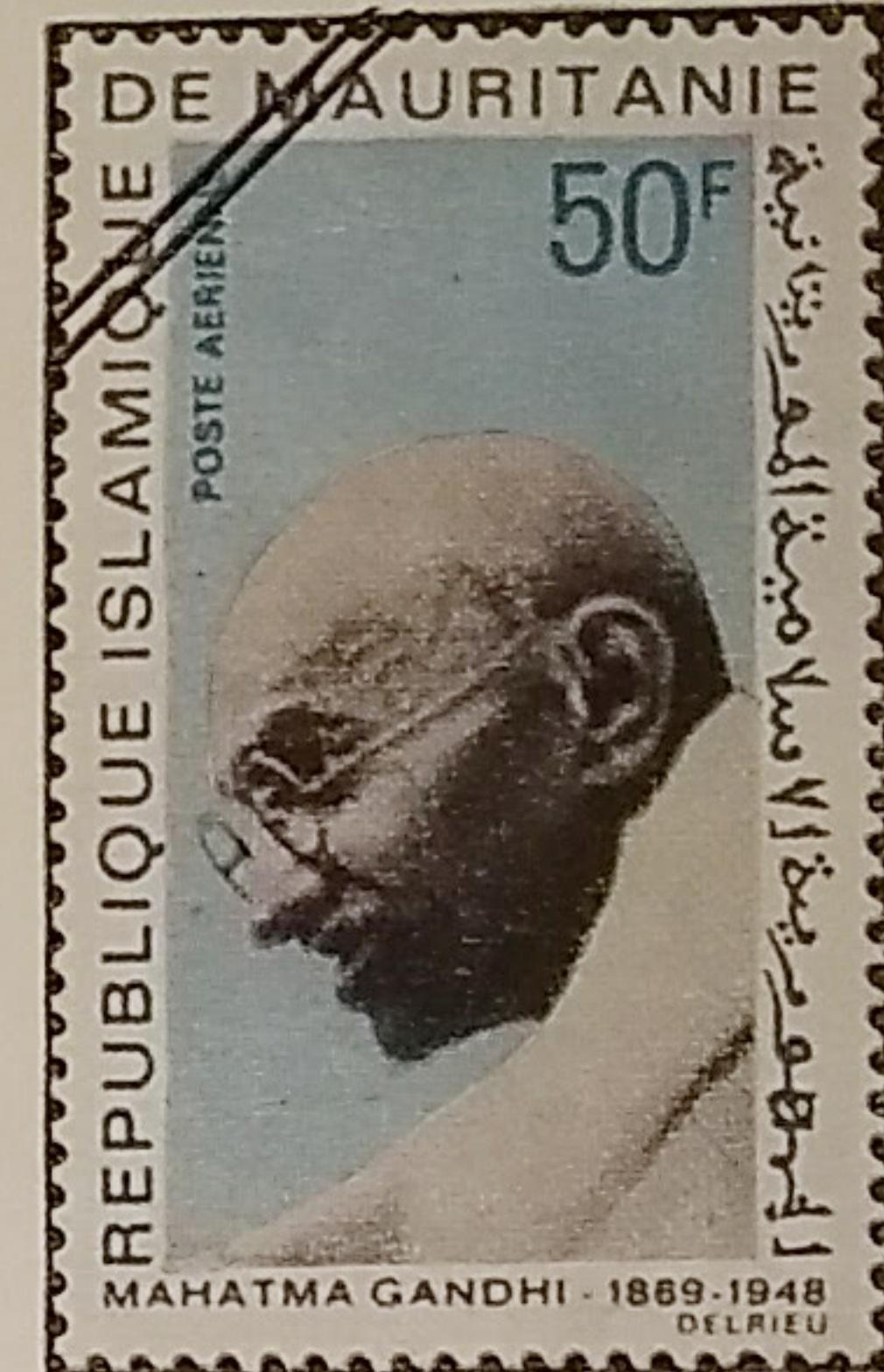
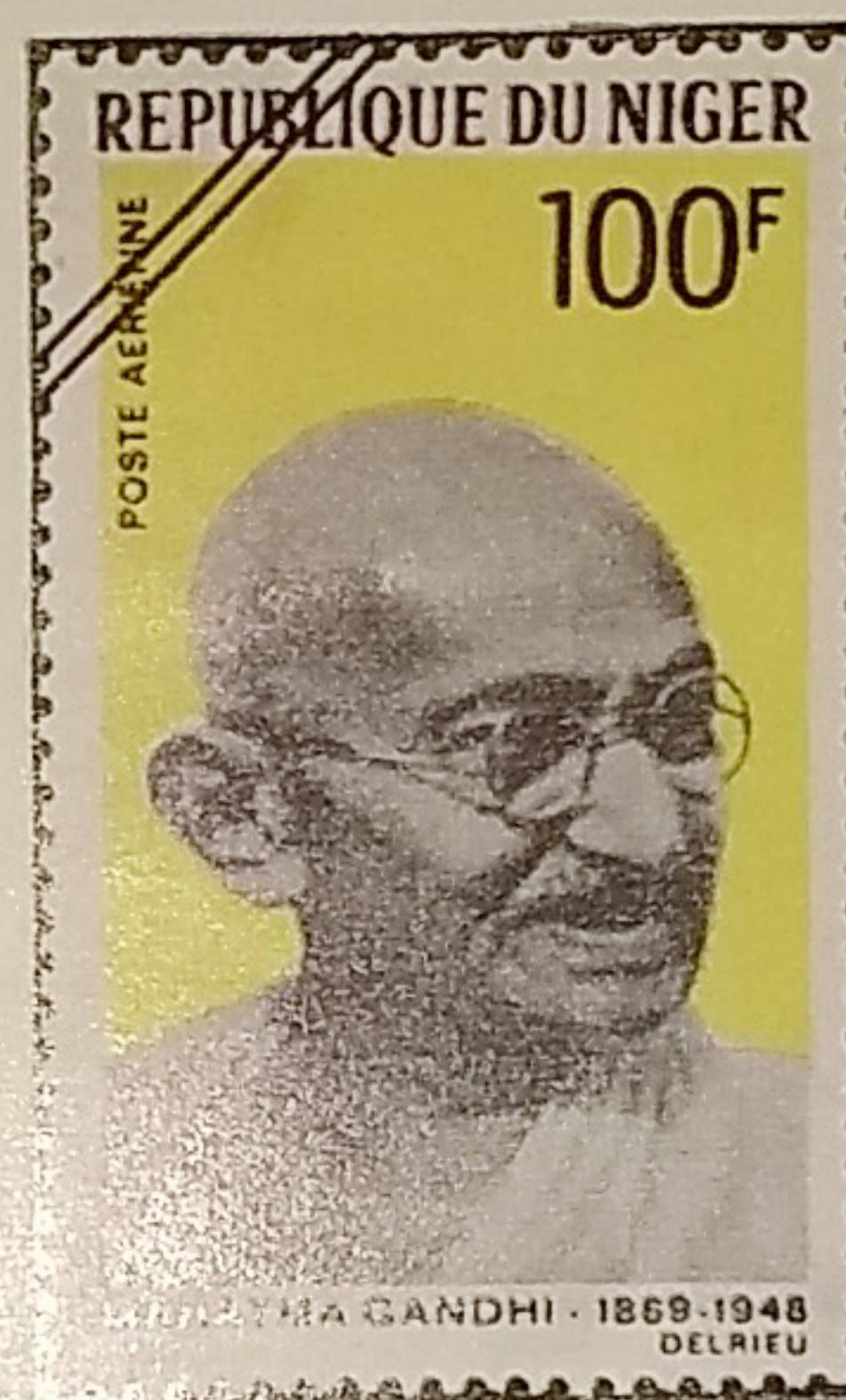
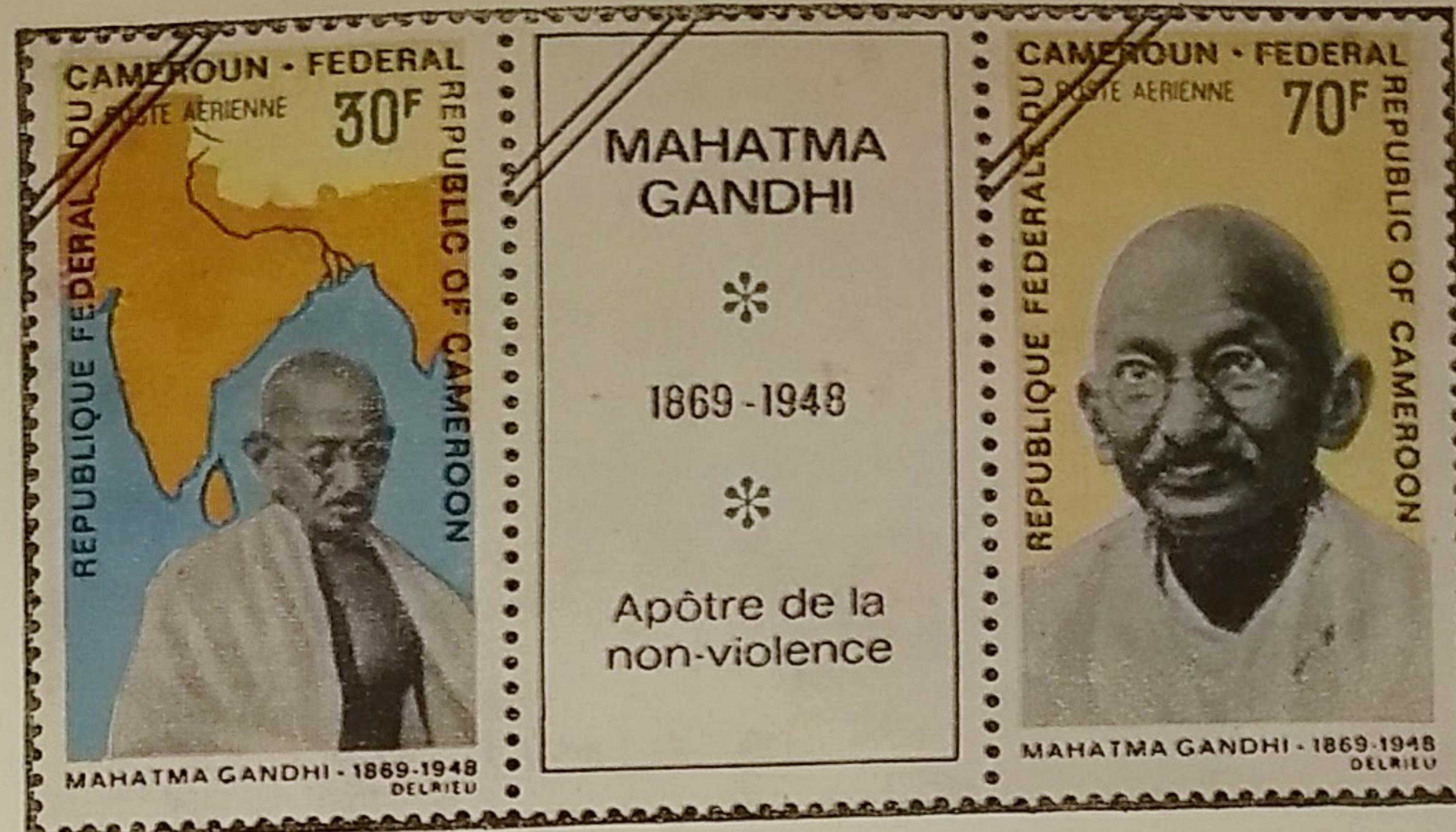
To mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta issued a commemorative stamp valued 100F. on 16th December, 1968. This colourful stamp was included in the "Apostle of Peace" series.

### GABON

The Government of Gabon issued a stamp of 25F. on Mahatma Gandhi on 15th January, 1969, in the series of "Apostle of Peace".

### TOGO

Homage to Mahatma Gandhi was paid by the Government of the Republic of Togoland by releasing two stamps of the denominations 30F. and 90F. with common design on unwatermarked paper. Printed in bi-colours, the stamp is a reproduction of Gandhiji's profile. The stamp bears inscription, "Great World Leader of Peace" in French.



## *Nuclear War*

There have been cataclysmic changes in the world. Do I still adhere to my faith in truth and non-violence? Has not the atom bomb exploded that faith? Not only has it not done so, but it has clearly demonstrated to me that the twins constitute the mightiest force in the world... The two opposing forces are wholly different in kind, the one moral and spiritual, the other physical and material... The force of the spirit is ever progressive and endless.

Has not the atom bomb proved the futility of all violence?

The moral to be legitimately drawn from the supreme tragedy of the bomb is that it will not be destroyed by counter-bombs, even as violence cannot be destroyed by counter-violence. Hatred can be overcome only by love. Counter-hatred only increases the surface as well as the depth of hatred.

—M. K. Gandhi

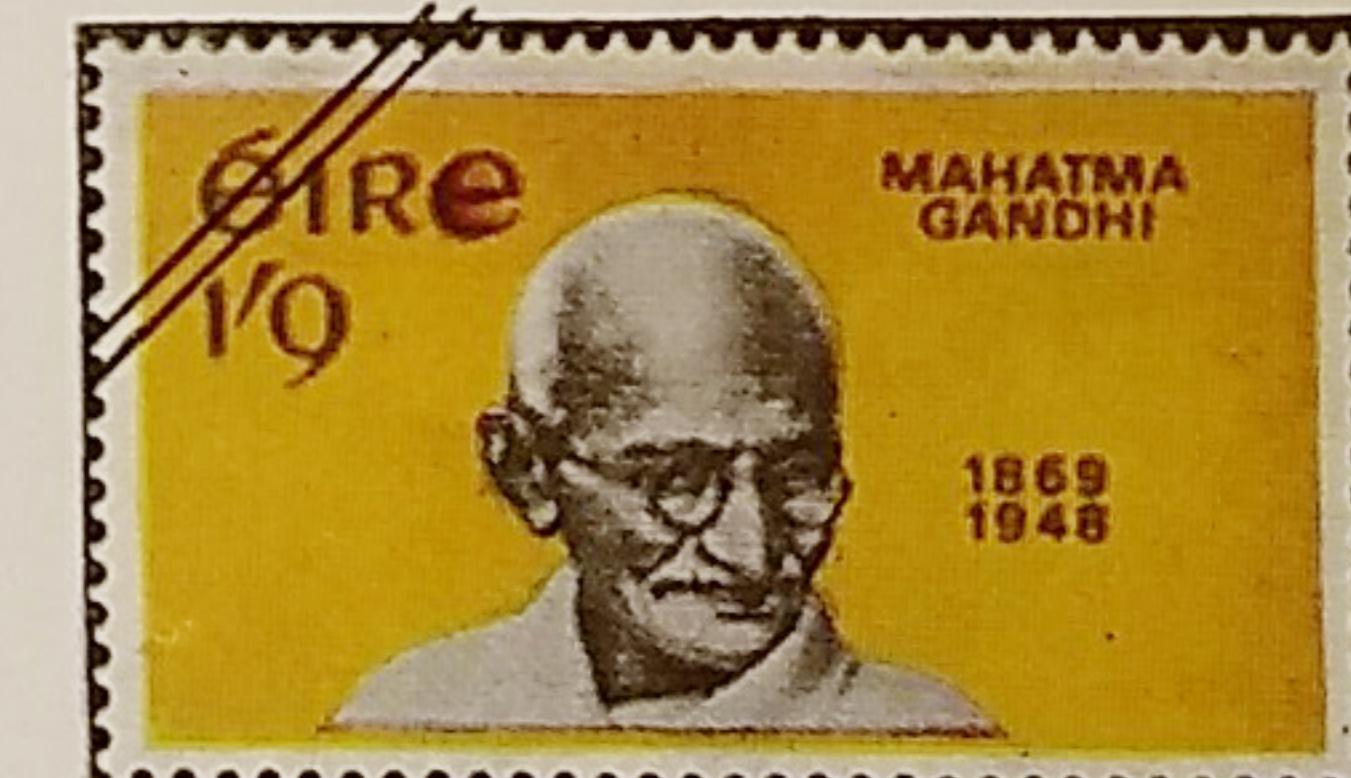
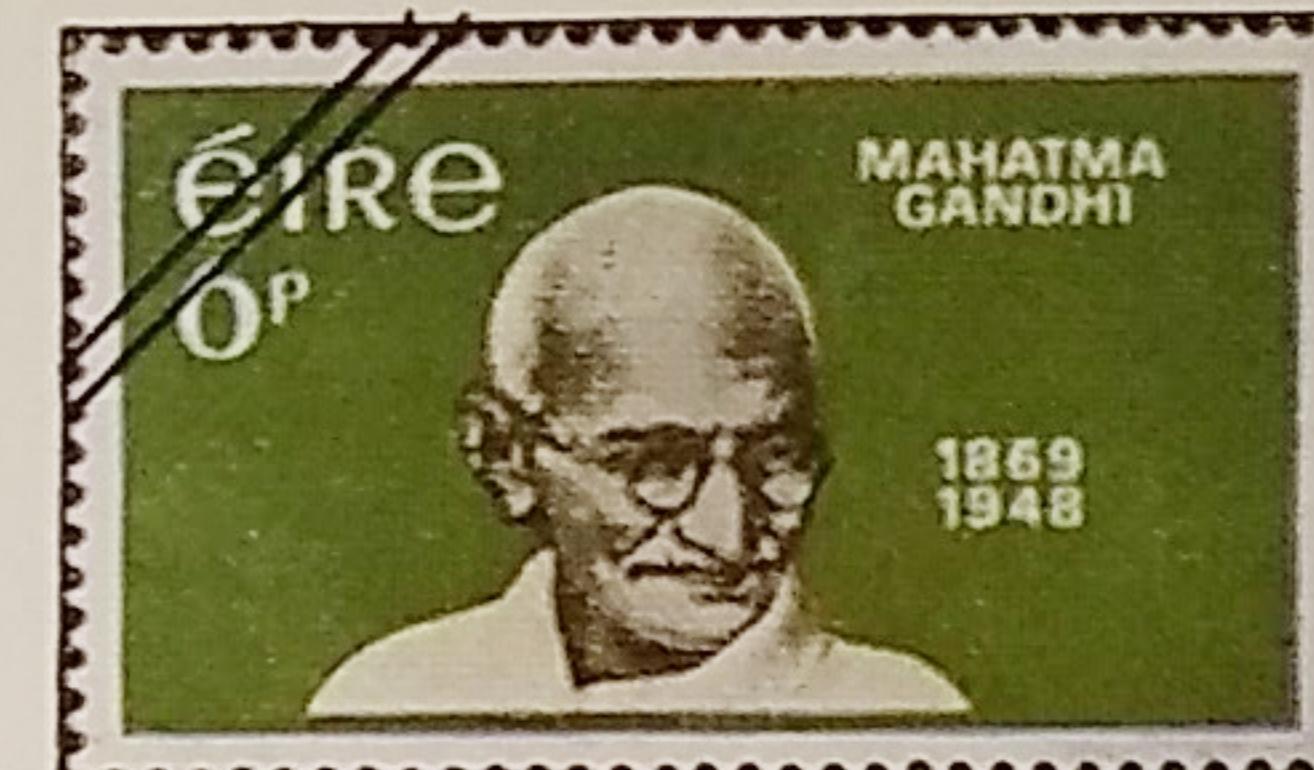
### GREAT BRITAIN

Great Britain issued the Gandhiji's Birth Centenary stamp on 13th August, 1969. This stamp was Britain's first to honour an overseas' leader and also the first to be designed by a foreigner, a young Indian by name Mullick of Calcutta. This stamp portrays a black and white head of Mahatma Gandhi with a background of the flag of India in saffron, white and green.



### IRELAND

Ireland issued Gandhiji's Birth Centenary commemorative stamps of the denominations of 6p. and 1s. 9p. on 2nd October, 1969. These stamps are of a common design with inscriptions, "Mahatma Gandhi 1869-1969" in English.



### MALTA

A stamp in the value of 1s. 6d. was issued by the Government of Malta on 24th March, 1969, to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. The stamp is of bi-colour, having a gold background.



### *Man and Machine*

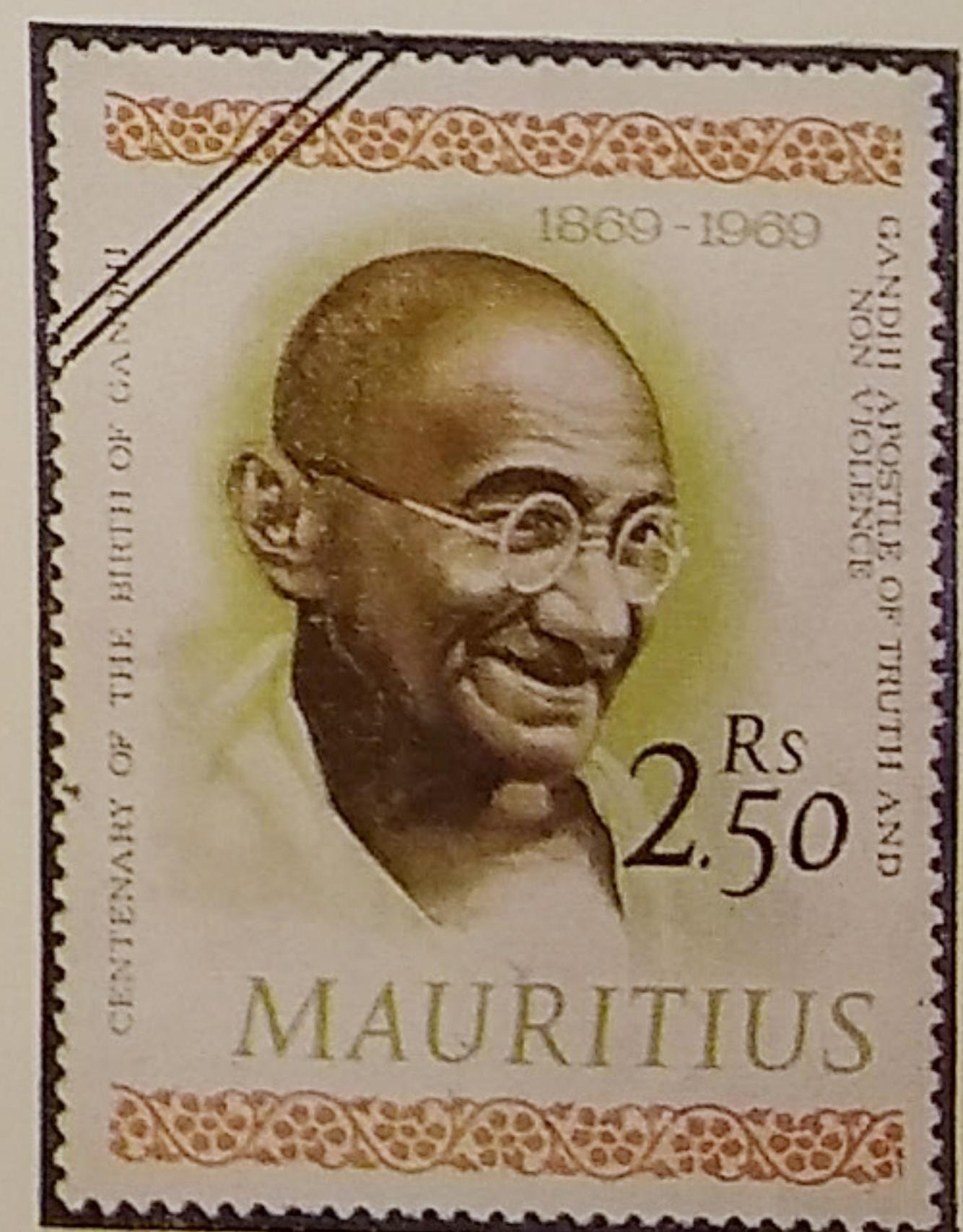
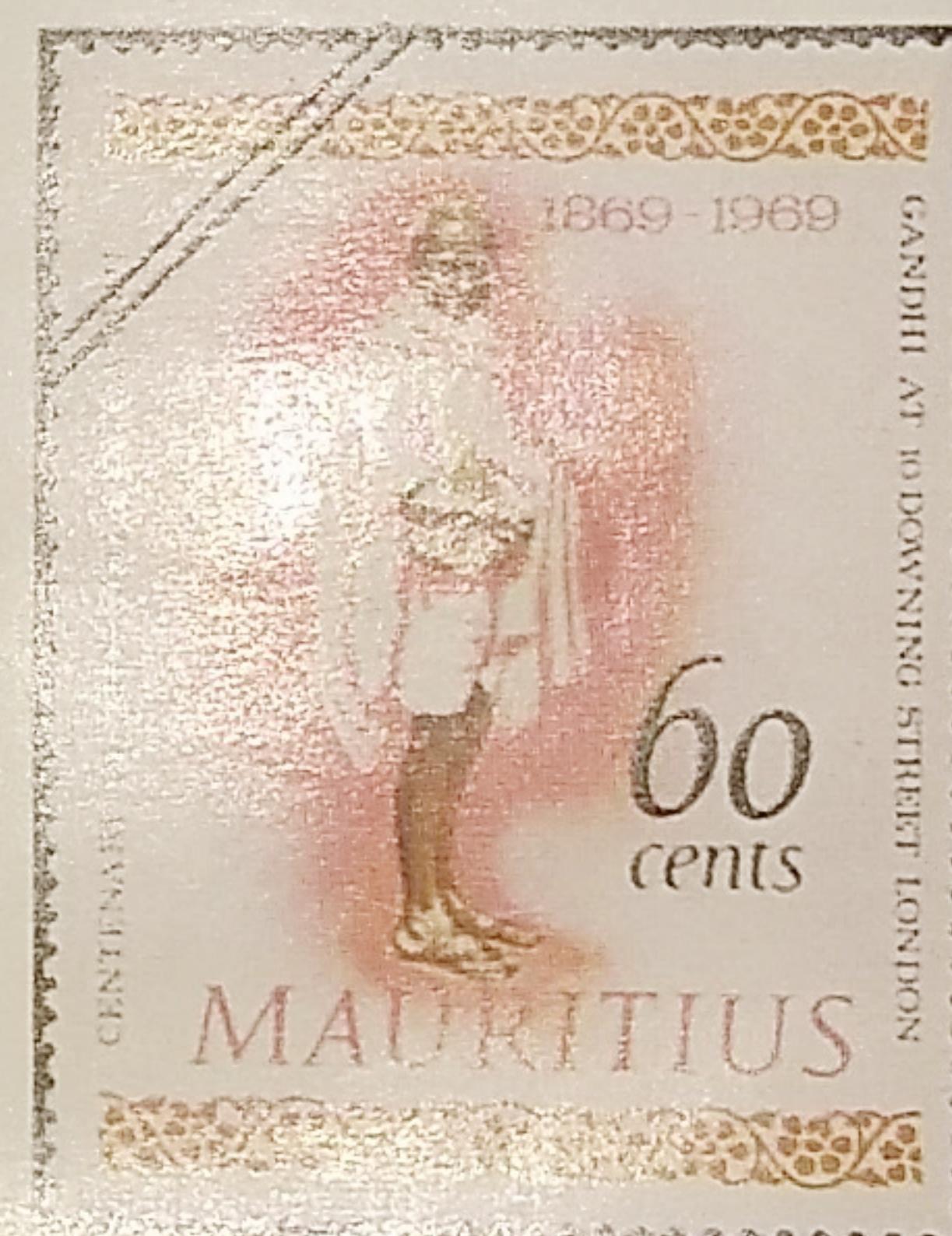
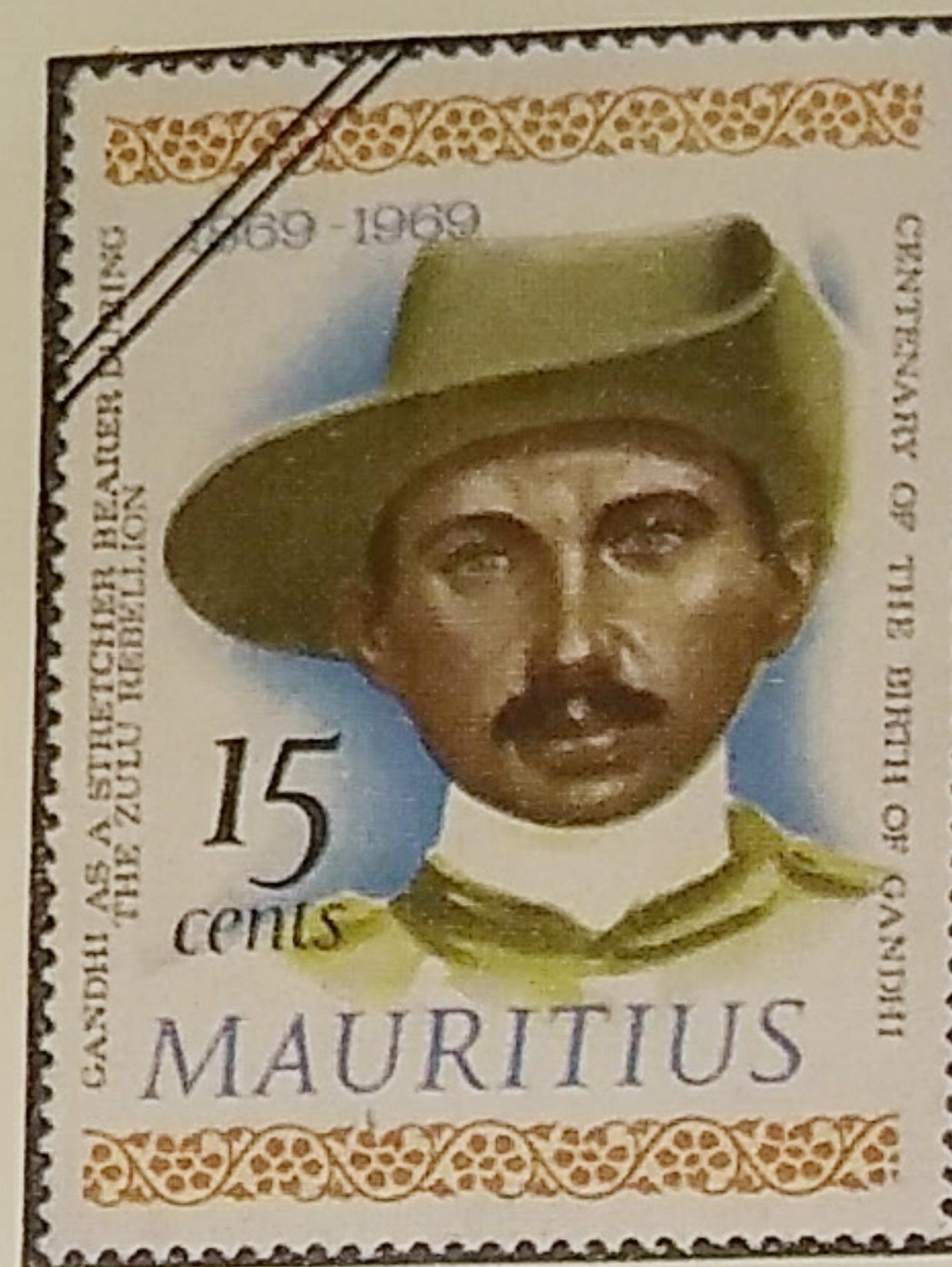
What I object to, is the 'craze' for machinery, not machinery as such. The craze is for what they call labour-saving machinery. Men go on 'saving labour' till thousands are without work and thrown on the open streets to die of starvation. I want to save time and labour, not for a fraction of mankind, but for all; I want the concentration of wealth, not in the hands of a few, but in the hands of all. Today machinery merely helps a few to ride on the back of millions. The impetus behind it all is not the philanthropy to save labour, but greed. It is against this constitution of things that I am fighting with all my might.

The supreme consideration is man. The machine should not tend to make atrophied the limbs of man.

—M. K. Gandhi

## MAURITIUS

Mauritius issued on 1st July, 1969 multi-coloured stamps in denominations of 2c., 15c., 50c., 60c., Re. 1 and Rs. 2.50 to commemorate Gandhiji's Birth Centenary. The stamps show various profiles of Mahatma as (1) stretcher bearer during the Zulu Rebellion, (2) satyagrahi in South Africa, (3) Round Table Conference Representative, (4) visitor to Mauritius in 1901, (5) law student in London, and (6) apostle of truth and non-violence.



*Democracy and the People*

A born democrat is a born disciplinarian. Democracy comes naturally to him who is habituated normally to yield willing obedience to all laws, human or divine... Moreover, a democrat must be utterly selfless. He must think and dream not in terms of self or party but only of democracy.

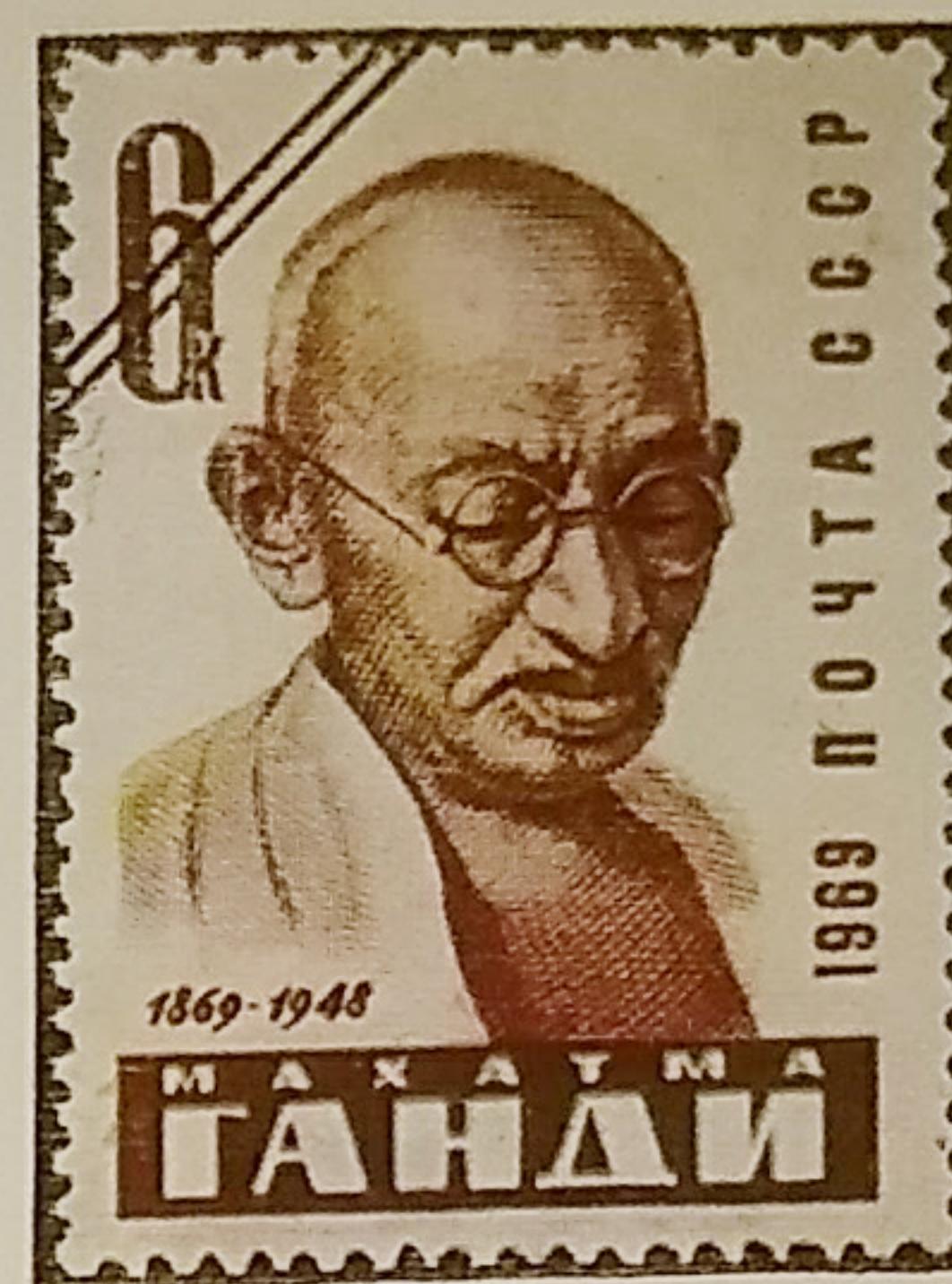
Under democracy, individual liberty of opinion and action is jealously guarded.

Claiming the right of free opinion and free action, we must extend the same to others. The rule of majority when it becomes coercive, is as intolerable as that of a bureaucratic minority. We must patiently try to bring round the minority to our view by gentle persuasion and argument.

—M. K. Gandhi

### U. S. S. R.

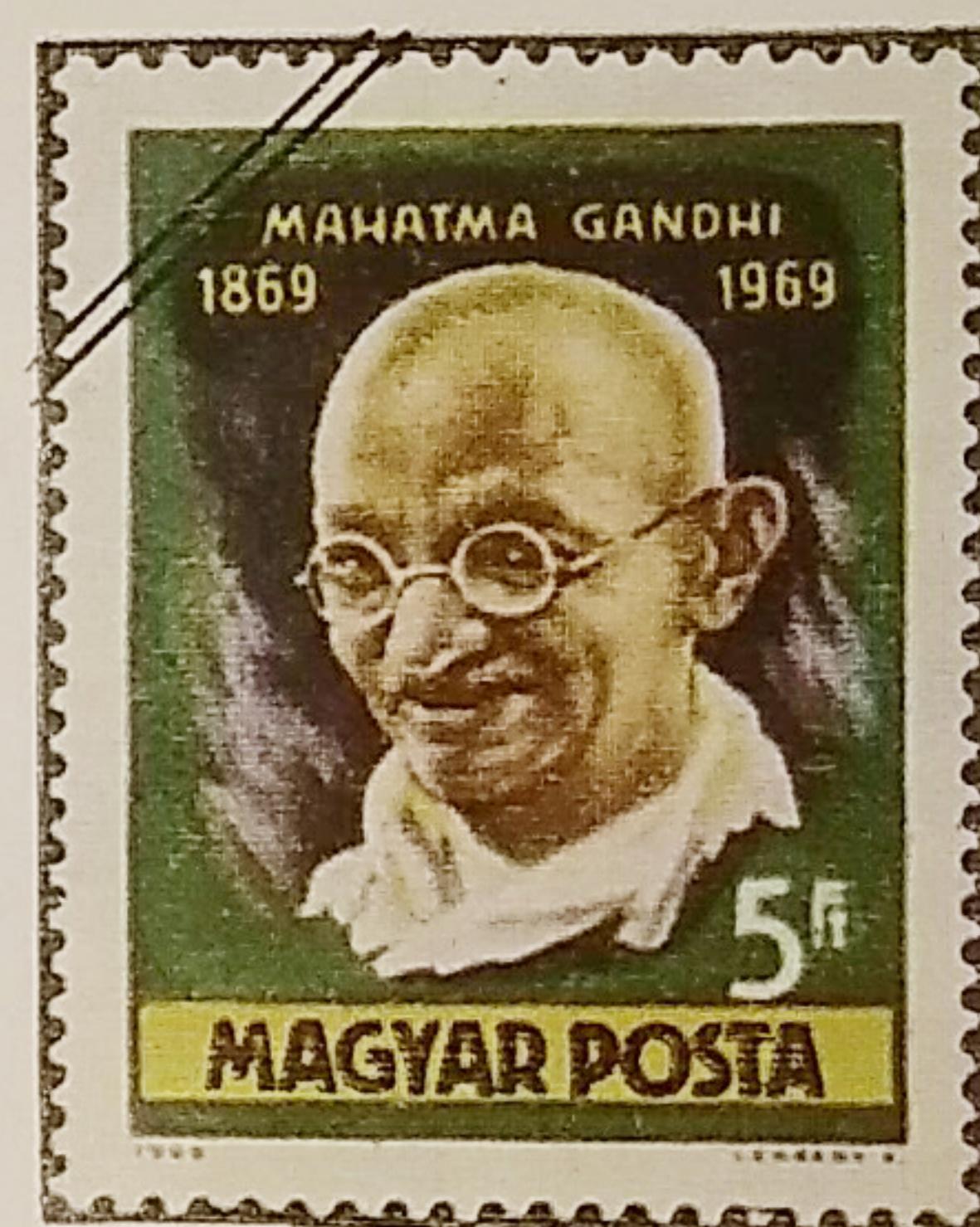
The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic issued a 6 Kopek postage stamp on 2nd October, 1969 to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. The stamp, a reproduction of a portrait of Gandhiji made in the last years of his life, is dark brown against a white background and is printed from a metal engraving on chalk paper.



### MAGYAR

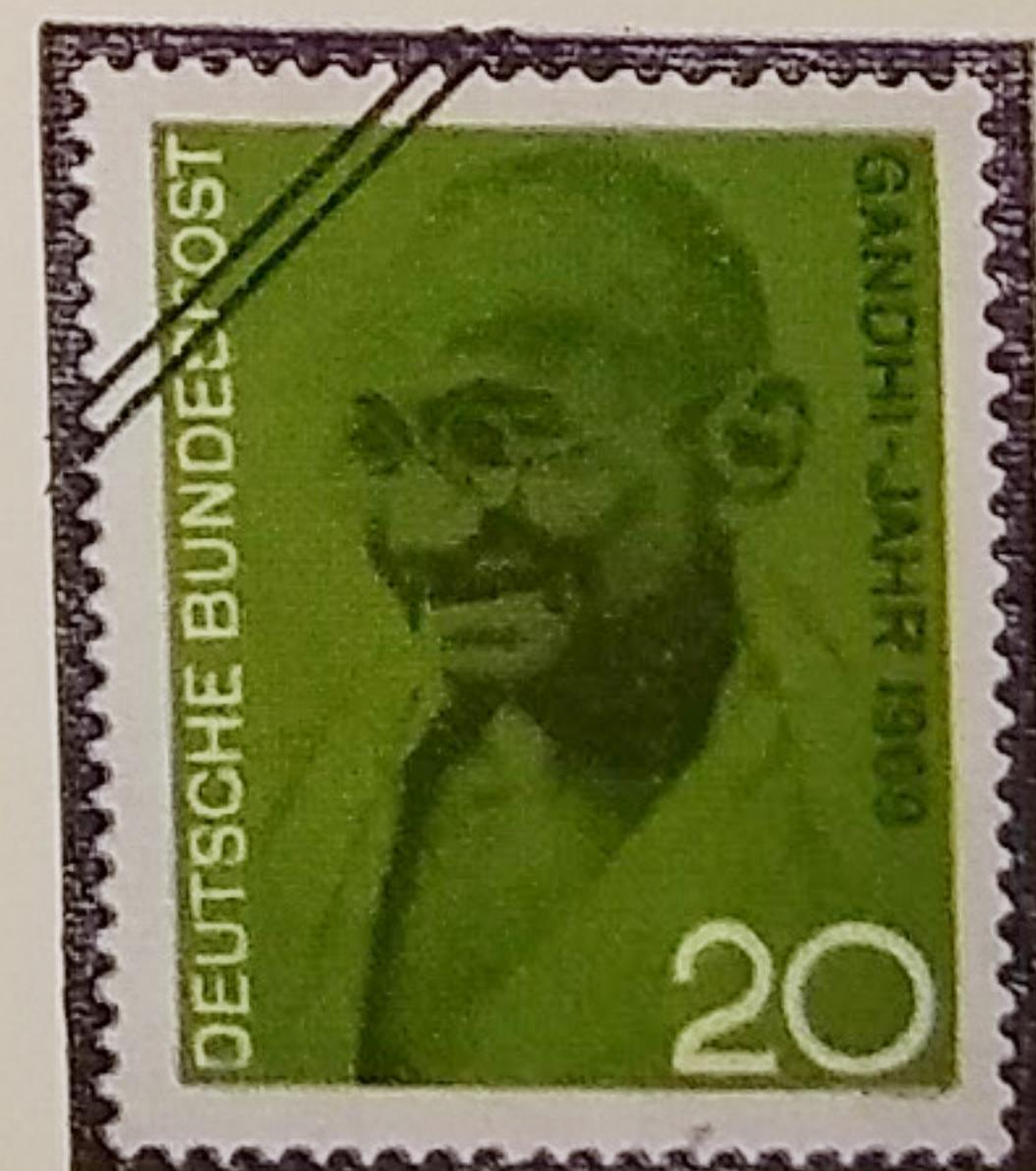
#### (Hungary)

The Government of Hungary released a stamp in the value of 5 Florint on 2nd October, 1969 to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. Printed in multi-colour in gravure process, the stamp shows a portrait of Gandhiji with inscription, "Mahatma Gandhi" and "1869-1969".



### GERMANY

To mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany released a stamp on 2nd October, 1969, in the denomination of 20ff., with inscription, "Gandhi Year 1969".



*Poverty in the Midst of Plenty*

The economic constitution of India and for that matter of the world, should be such that no one under it should suffer from want of food and clothing. Everybody should be able to get sufficient work to enable him to make the two ends meet. And this ideal can be universally realized only if the means of production of the elementary necessities of life remain in the control of the masses. These should be freely available to all as God's air and water are and ought to be; they should not be made a vehicle of traffic for the exploitation of others. Their monopolization by any country, nation or group of persons would be unjust.

My ideal is equal distribution, but so far as I can see, it is not to be realized. I therefore work for equitable distribution.

—M. K. Gandhi

### DOMINICA

The Government of Dominica issued a series of three stamps in the value of 6c., 38c., and \$ 1.20, on 12th October, 1969, to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his Birth Centenary. One stamp shows Gandhiji with Jawaharlal Nehru and another bears the picture of Taj Mahal.



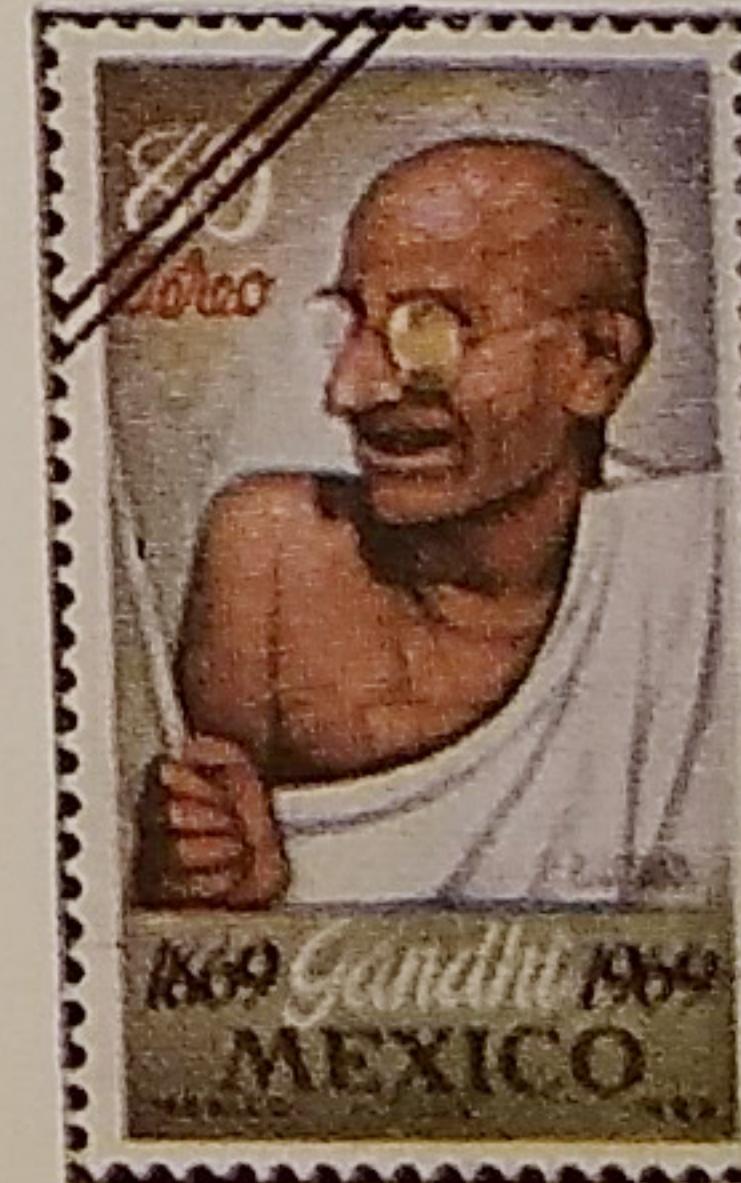
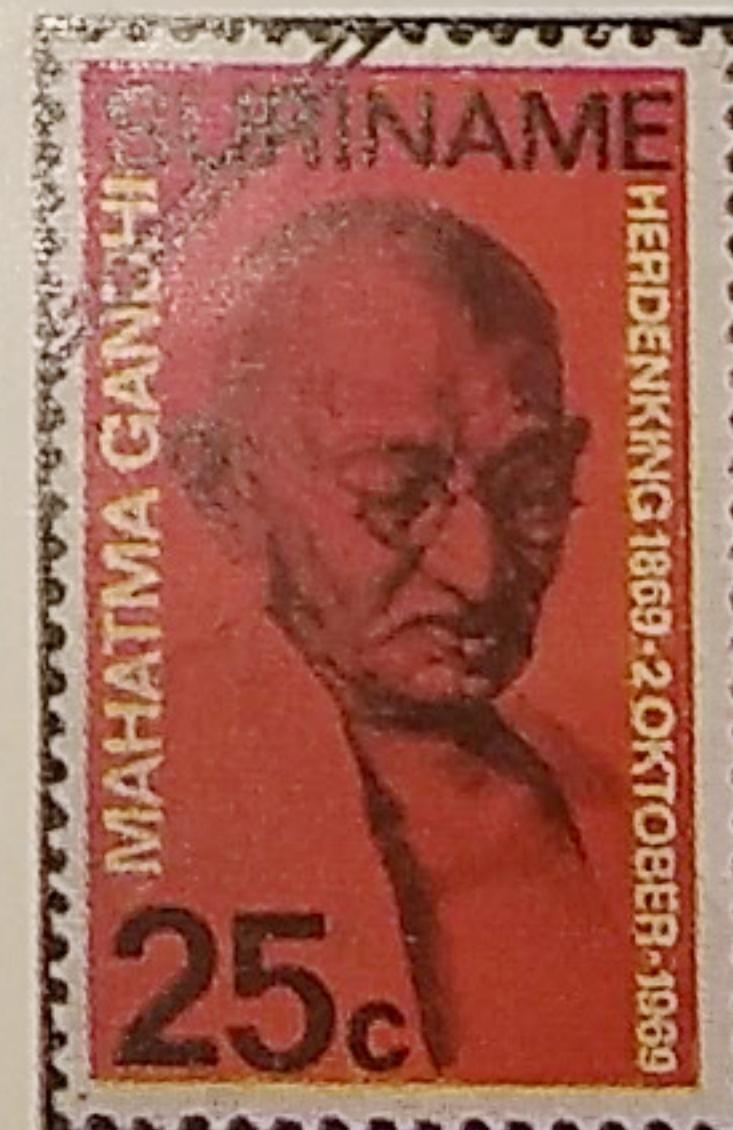
### SURINAME

The Government of Suriname paid respects to Mahatma Gandhi by releasing a commemorative stamp in the value of Sur. Fl. O. 25 on his Birth Centenary on 2nd October, 1969. The stamp, printed in red brown, shows a portrait of Gandhiji and bears the special text "MAHATMA GANDHI HERDENKING 1869-2 October 1969".



### MEXICO

To commemorate the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of Mexico issued a multi-coloured postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi of the value of 80c. The stamp bears a very poor profile of Mahatma.



### UNITED STATES

Concluding the series of the "Champion of Liberty" issues, a set of two stamps in the denominations of 4c. and 8c. was released by the Government of United States on 26th January, 1969. Gandhiji's profile is portrayed on a medallion type design with inscriptions "Mahatma Gandhi, Apostle of Non-Violence, 1869".



## *Disarmament*

Real disarmament cannot come unless the nations of the world cease to exploit one another.

If the mad race of armaments continues, it is bound to result in a slaughter such as never occurred in history. If there is a victor left the very victory will be a living death for the nation that emerges victorious.

There is no escape from the impending doom save through a bold and unconditional acceptance of the non-violent method with all its glorious implications.

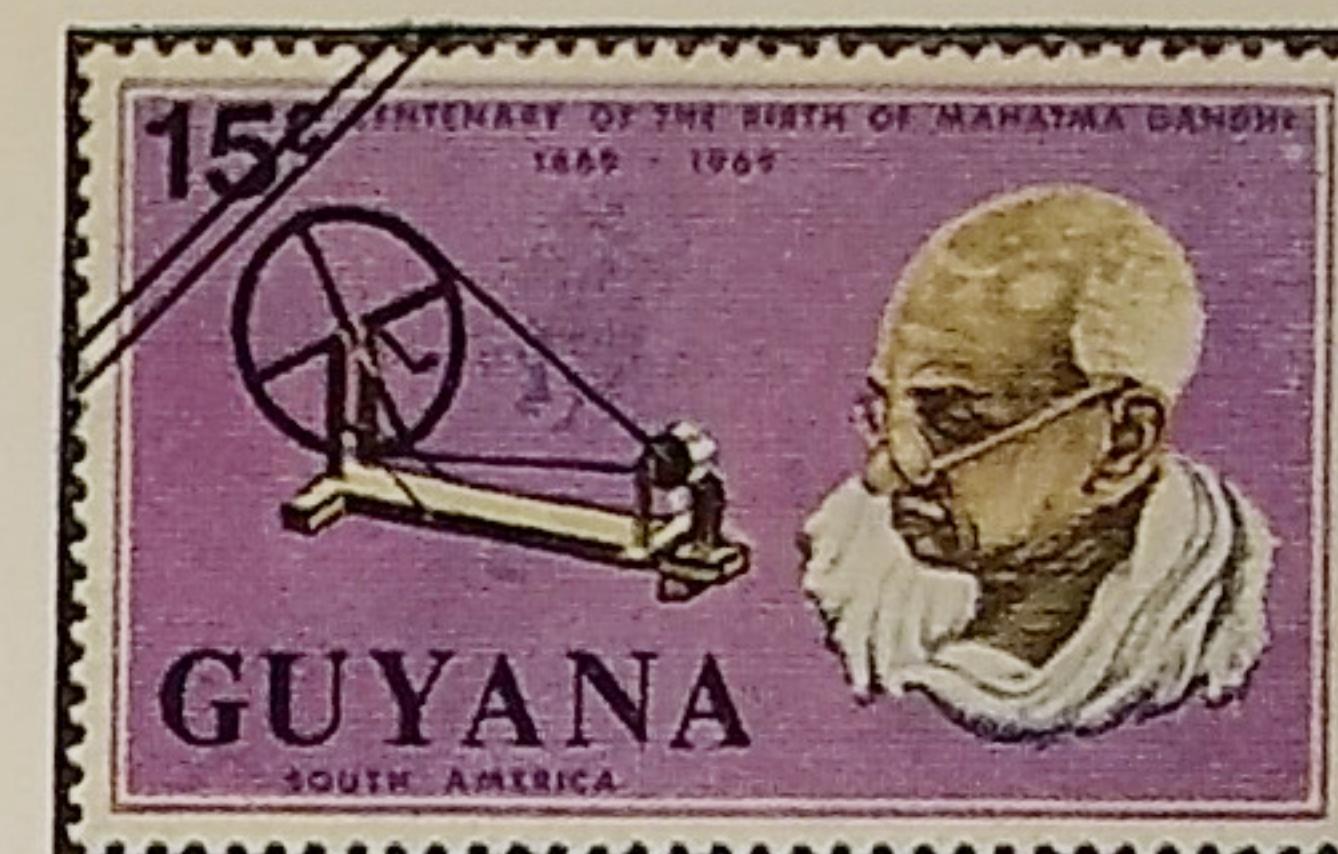
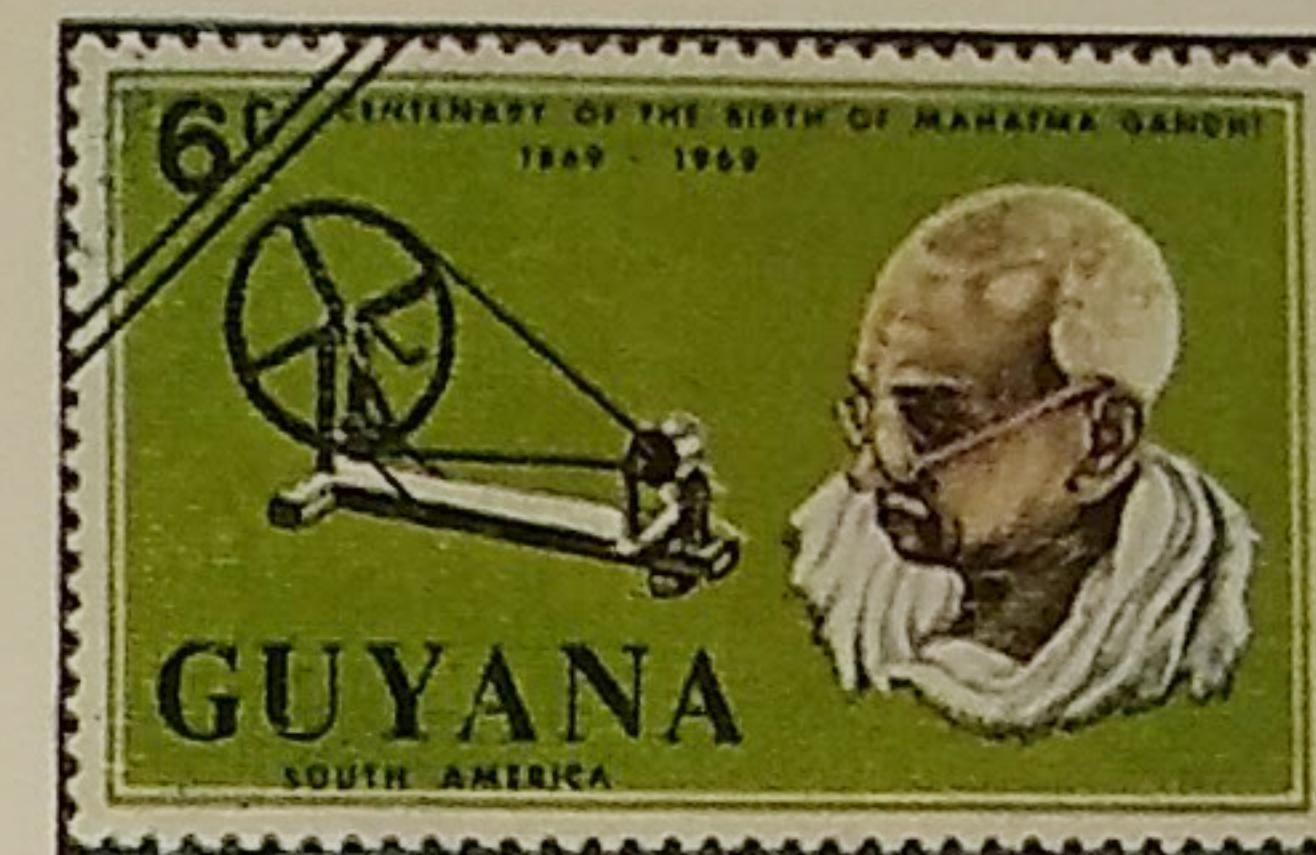
If there were no greed, there would be no occasion for armaments. The principle of non-violence necessitates complete abstention from exploitation in any form.

Immediately the spirit of exploitation is gone, armaments will be felt as a positive unbearable burden.

—M. K. Gandhi

## GUYANA

A set of two stamps of the value of 6c. and 15c. was released on 1st October, 1969 by Guyana, to commemorate Gandhiji's Birth Centenary. The stamps, in different colours, have a common design.



## URUGUAY

Commemorating the Birth Centenary of Gandhiji, the Government of the Republic of Uruguay issued a stamp of the value of 100 pesos on 26th January, 1970.



## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago honoured Mahatma Gandhi on his Birth Centenary by releasing two stamps in the values of 10c. and 30c. on 15th February, 1970.



## BRAZIL

The Government of Brazil commemorated the Birth Centenary of Gandhiji by issuing a 20c. stamp in October, 1969. It is interesting to note that instead of Spinning Wheel (Charkha) of Indian type, the Brazilian type is shown on the stamp.



*India of My Dreams*

I shall work for an India, in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice; an India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people; an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability or the curse of the intoxicating drinks and drugs. Women will enjoy the same rights as men. Since we shall be at peace with all the rest of the world, neither exploiting, nor being exploited, we should have the smallest army imaginable. This is the India of my dreams.

—M. K. Gandhi

## GRENADA

Grenada issued a set of four stamps in the denomination of 6c., 15c., 25c, and \$1 on 8th October, 1969 to celebrate Gandhi Centenary Year. The multi-coloured stamps show various poses and profiles of Gandhiji.



### *Co-Mingling of Cultures*

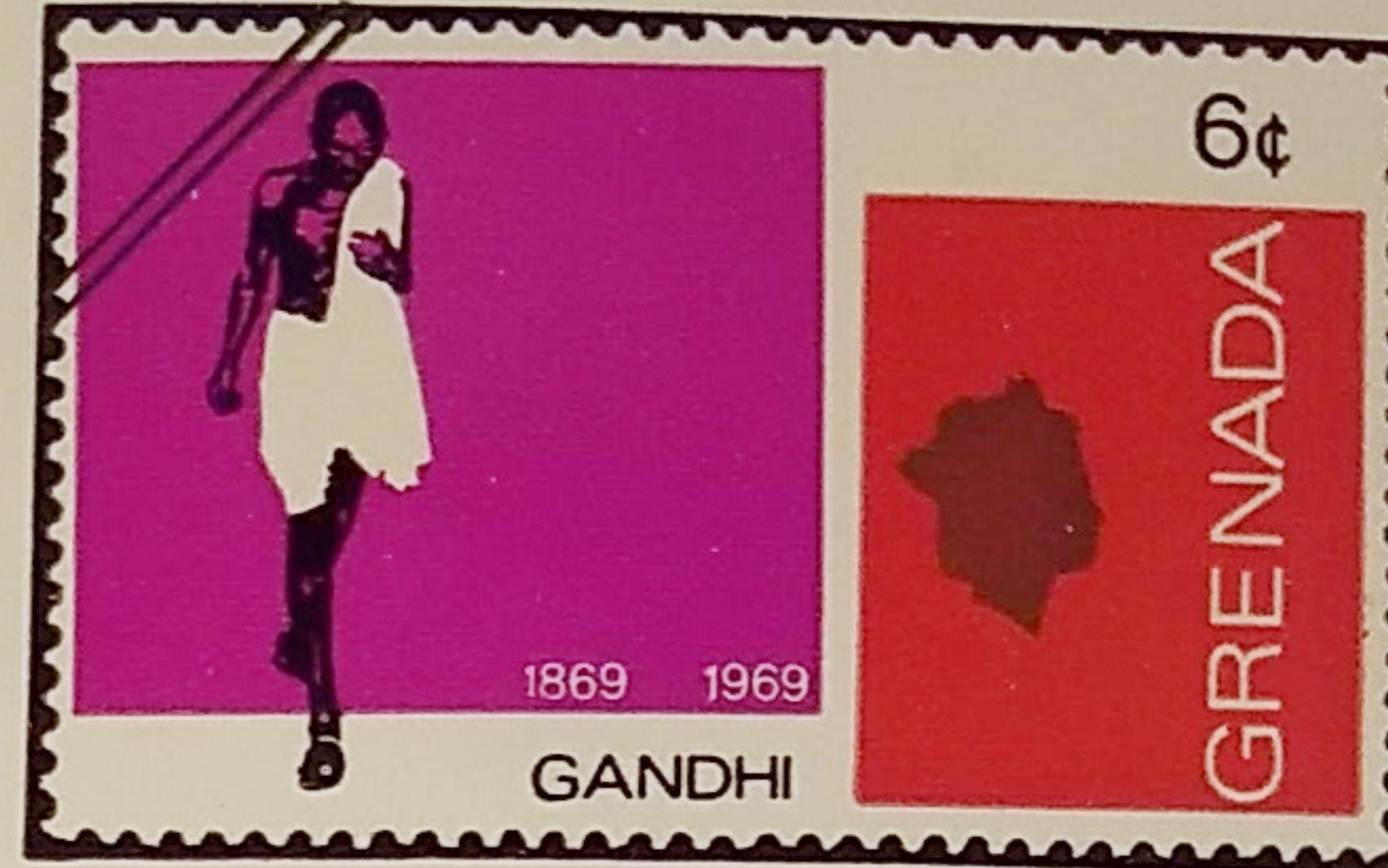
I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any. I refuse to live in other people's houses as an interloper, a beggar or a slave... Mine is not a religion of the prison-house. It has room for the least among God's creation. But it is proof against insolence, pride of race, religion or colour.

Indian nationalism is not exclusive, nor aggressive nor destructive. It is health giving, religious and, therefore, humanitarian. India must learn to live before she can aspire to die for humanity.

—M. K. Gandhi

### SHARJAH AND DEPENDENCIES

Two sets of stamps, the World Peace Set and Liberty Set, of the values of 35dh., 60dh., and 1 Rial in each set, were issued by Sharjah and Dependencies, a State in Trucial Coast of the Gulfs. The colour of the World Peace Set is brown, and that of Liberty, green.



### CHILE

In commemoration of Gandhiji's Birth Centenary, Chile issued two stamps.

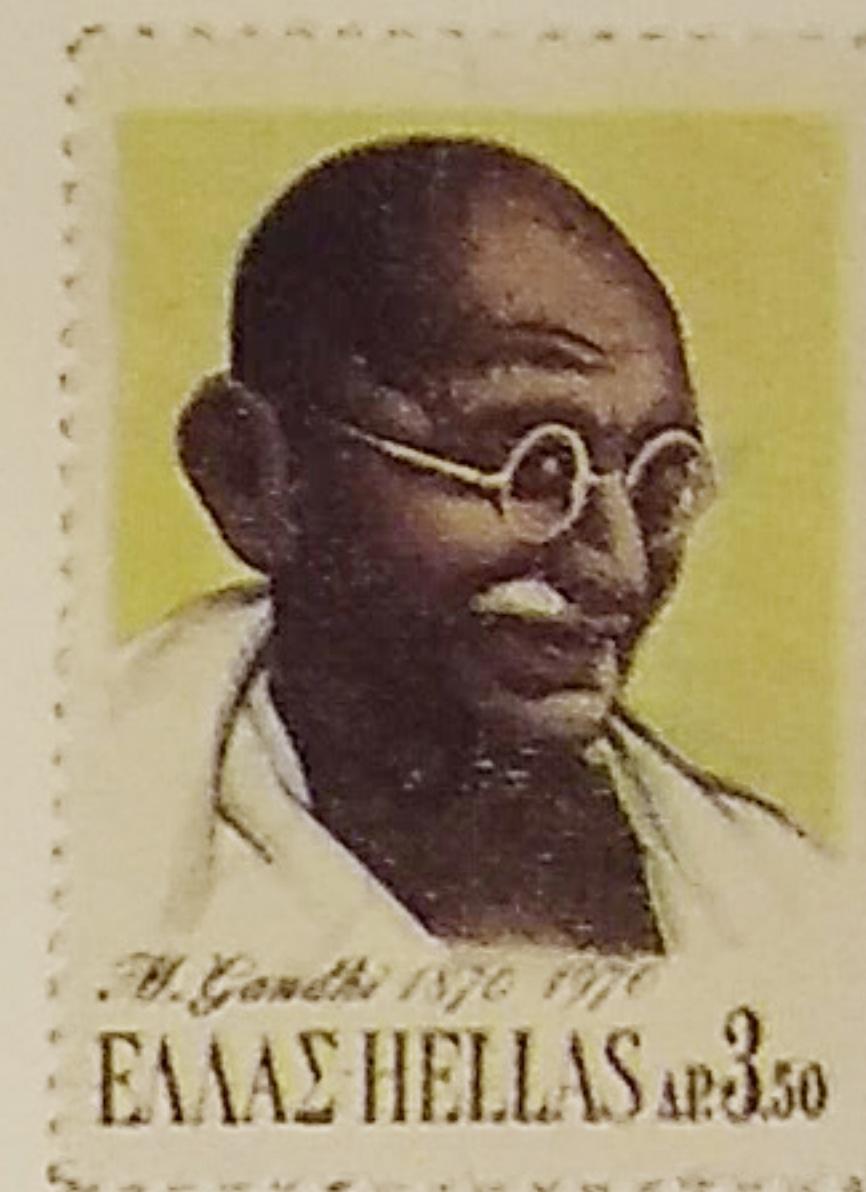
*International Peace*

My mission is not merely brotherhood of Indian humanity. My mission is not merely freedom of India, though to-day it undoubtedly engrosses practically the whole of my life and the whole of my time. But through realization of freedom of India I hope to realize and carry on the mission of the brotherhood of man. My patriotism is not an exclusive thing. It is all embracing and I should reject that patriotism which sought to mount upon the distress or the exploitation of other nationalities. The conception of my patriotism is nothing if it is not always in every case without exception, consistent with the broadest good of humanity at large. Not only that, but my religion and my patriotism derived from religion embrace all life.

—M. K. Gandhi

### GREECE

To mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi the Government of Greece issued a postal stamp in the dimension of AP. 3.50 on 2nd October, 1970. The stamp bears a smiling profile of Gandhi in an olive-green background. It has inscription in Greek language.



### KINGDOM OF YEMEN

The Mulawakelite Kingdom of Yemen issued a postal stamp of 6 Bagshahs dimension to mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. The stamp bears the inscription "Mahatma Gandhi" in English and Yemen languages. The stamps issued are both perforated and imperforated. The stamp is colourful and bears a smiling profile of Gandhi.

